

10/15 - SCMP - Heavy fighting continues in the Shomali area between Shakardarra & Istalef. The NYCT reported that DRA Interior Minister Ghulabzoy personally commanded the DRA paramilitary police troops in the action.

- NYCT - Foreign journalists in Herat last week reported that ca. 90% of the old town & half the new town were in mujahideen hands.

- IHT - The US will send money & "non-lethal" goods to the Afghan Islamic Alliance (see p.18).

- BIA - The first batch of Soviet troops left, amid much hoopla, from Shindand air base in Herat. The DRA CC said, "Revolutionary Afghanistan will never forget the epic making & internationalist assistance of the Soviet soldiers. Their names will remain forever in the memory of the Afghan people." The road between Shindand & central Herat has been named "Afghan Soviet Friendship Road" in gratitude "for the meritorious services of the departing Soviet soldiers."

- HK Standard - On the Soviet welcome of its returning troops:

MOSCOW: The Soviet Union launched an unusual media campaign on Monday lauding the soldiers who are being withdrawn this week from Afghanistan, a withdrawal disputed by America's defence chief.

The Communist Party's Central Committee issued a message of greetings to the young men in the six regiments returning home as part of the first announced withdrawal of troops during the almost seven-year war.

"Risking their lives every day," the message said, "the internationalist servicemen have rescued thousands of Afghan children, old people and

women from bloody reprisals by hired murderers and terrorists, have enabled children to go to school, peasants reap their harvests, and workers operate their machines."

"This heroic feat will remain for ever a symbol of Soviet-Afghan friendship," it said. "The soldiers and officers, doctors and nurses have selflessly done and continue doing their duty."

Although troops are normally rotated home at this time of year with never a word of mention in the official press, the message was carried by the Tass news agency and read on nightly television news.

10/16 - Evening Outlook - Pakistan's President Zia said that the USSR had sent 15,000 new troops to Afghanistan since Gorbachev's troop reduction announcement last July.

- NYT & LA Times - Pres. Zia may ask the US to mount occasional patrols in Pakistani airspace with early warning aircraft to detect attacks

coming from Afghanistan. (The US planes could not be based in Pakistan.) Eventually Pakistan would like to buy its own AWACs.

10/17 - NYT - US Defense Sec'y Weinberger in Islamabad said that the US may provide early warning radar planes to Pakistan to help defend against incursions from Afghanistan.

10/18 - BIA - Mawlawi A. Jamil Zarifi has been named Minister of Islamic Affairs replacing Mawlawi Abdul Wali Hojat who was reassigned.

10/19 - BIA - A motorized air defense regiment left Kabul & was waved off by "tens of thousands of Kabul citizens." Four Soviet regiments have left so far.

10/20 - NYCT - On the Iceland meeting:



- NYT - Najibullah told Western reporters in Kabul that his main goal is reconciliation with Moslem guerrillas & that he envisions political parties in the future. He said that a reconciliation meeting might take place "in the next few days," but declined to elaborate.

- NYCT - A group of demonstrators protesting Soviet intervention in Afghanistan disrupted the final session of the World Peace Congress in Copenhagen yesterday. 12 Afghan refugees & about 25 Europeans interrupted the closing speech.

Professor Batin Shah Safi, the leader of the Afghanistan Education Committee in Peshawar, Pakistan, came in as a guest of the independent peace organization "No to Nuclear Weapons." He spoke at several workshops, voicing his opposition to the Soviet occupation and

the present government in Kabul.

"Every time I have spoken at this conference, I have been interrupted by the chairman of the meetings because of what I say, or by someone in the audience. It has not been easy the past few days," said Safi.

# Kabul Factory Symbolizes Soviets' Stake in Afghanistan

10/20 - BIA - Two thousand DYOAs members have been elected people's deputies to the local organs of state power in the recent elections.

10/24 - LA Times & NYT - Moh'd Daoud, a DRA pilot based at Begram, flew his MIG-21 jet to Pakistan & asked for asylum. His defection was apparently prearranged as the Yunis Khalis group announced his defection before the Pakistanis did.

10/29 - NYT - Moh'd Ali Samim, the Provincial Party Secretary in Herat, was killed in the Gulran district in the northern part of the province by a land mine explosion. Another report says that at least 30 Soviet soldiers were killed in a guerrilla ambush as the soldiers were preparing to leave Afghanistan.

10/30 - NYT - Attacks on civilians increase according to an article by Steven Weisman:

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, Oct. 29 — Soviet and Afghan armed forces have stepped up bombing of civilian areas in Afghanistan, according to Pakistan officials and Afghan guerrilla leaders.

The same sources also asserted that there had been an increase in the number of aerial incursions into Pakistani territory, to more than double the rate of last year.

The Afghan air attacks were said by officials to have killed more and more refugees to flee to Pakistan, and have stirred charges here that the Soviet Union is again seeking to intimidate Islamabad to force it to end its support of the six-year-old Afghan insurgency.

## Wave of Bombings

In a related problem, the Pakistan authorities have become increasingly concerned about a wave of bombings this year in marketplaces, offices and neighborhoods in Pakistan territory adjacent to the Afghan border, particularly in Peshawar, the capital of the Northwest Frontier province.

Officials said more than 30 people had died in bomb blasts in the Peshawar area this year, including 6 killed and at least 21 wounded at a crowded marketplace there on Tuesday.

"The blasts are turning the Northwest Frontier into a front-line province of a front-line country," a Government official said. "It is part of a deliberate campaign of subversion by the Afghan Government aided and abetted by people in Pakistan who want us to turn our backs" on the guerrillas.

Some Pakistani officials say recent events reflect rising pressures on Pakistan from the war, although indications are that Pakistanis generally still support the guerrilla insurgency against the Kabul Government.

The issue of the air incursions had created some difficulties with the United States because Pakistani leaders have asked Washington to sell sophisticated electronic surveillance aircraft to Pakistan to help it warn itself against the attacks.

The United States Defense Secretary, Caspar W. Weinberger, said on his visit here two weeks ago that Washington recognized the need and wanted to respond. But Pakistan leaders have rejected proposals to have American personnel fly Awacs surveillance aircraft in Pakistan, fearing this would be seen as allowing the United States to use Pakistan as a military base.

According to Pakistan officials, there were 650 violations of Pakistan airspace by Soviet or Afghan planes this year, compared with 251 violations during 1985. However, because many of the incursions were deemed minor, the number of formal protests lodged with the Afghan Government went down from 49 last year to 20 this year.

Meanwhile, inside Afghanistan, the increasing air attacks are generally seen to have deepened the difficulties faced by the Afghan guerrillas, according to officials, diplomats and insurgent commanders themselves, interviewed here and in Peshawar.

These people say repeated Soviet bombings, artillery attacks and other operations against civilian populations have depopulated whole areas surrounding Soviet bases, supply centers and roads Russians control.

By all accounts, after a lull in fighting in many of these areas, battles have resumed in Afghanistan this fall, particularly in the north. The new battles are expected to remain intense until winter.

KABUL, Afghanistan — At a factory in southeast Kabul, a cartoon on the wall shows wicked-looking Muslim guerrillas using U.S.-made rockets to blow up an Afghan mosque.

In the "room of Afghan-Soviet friendship," workers can dip into the writings of Lenin in Dari (Afghan Persian) and inspect posters of the ruling Afghan and Soviet politburos.

The Jangalak factory, which is Afghanistan's largest for the repair of vehicles and also makes water pumps and textile goods, symbolizes the authorities' drive to persuade people that the Soviets are their natural friend and the guerrillas their natural enemy. . . .

Workers at Jangalak, which was set up with Soviet assistance 26 years ago, may pray during their hour lunch break, and their 5½-day week allows them a half-day off Thursdays to prepare for Friday's weekly religious holiday.

Factory foreman Saeed Rahman, a member of the ruling communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, said he trained for 11 months in the Soviet Union in 1960 and took part in demonstrations preceding the overthrow of King Mohammad Zahir Shah in 1973.

A 19-year-old worker, Nur Bibi, said she is a Muslim believer but would not consider wearing the head-to-toe Chador veil in which many women can still be seen in central Kabul.

"No one in my family wears a veil," she said.

Omar said his factory employed no women before the 1978 Communist coup, but there are now 70 on the factory floor out of a total staff of 1,200. . . .

Omar said five Soviet experts work at his factory and more than 100 workers traveled to the Soviet Union this year for training.

"We prefer to send young people but we also have to send older workers, especially if they need retraining," he said.

Thousands of children have been sent to the Soviet Union for schooling, and more than 10,000 Afghans are studying at Soviet and Eastern European universities.

Afghan officials said all schools, factories and state institutions have Soviet-Afghan "rooms of friendship" similar to that at Jangalak, where one Russian-language banner reads "Glory to the working class of Afghanistan" while another proclaims, "Long live the great people of the Soviet Union."

NYCT  
10/20

# fraud link

ISLAMABAD: Afghan leader Najibullah, signalling a new leadership style in Soviet-backed Kabul, has disclosed a case of fraud involving members of his ruling Communist Party, according to the official Radio Kabul.

Mr Najibullah, who became the party's general-secretary last May, said members of the youth wing of the (Communist) People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) have cheated the government out of some US\$300,000 this year.

The radio, monitored in Islamabad, quoted Mr Najibullah as saying the youth wing cadres in the Kabul district of Deh Sabz Woloswaki have pocketed wages of non-existent troops whose names they sent to authorities and claimed their salaries.

He said the racket lasted for three months this year, but did not reveal the number of those involved.

In a closing speech before the party's central committee, Mr Najibullah said the culprits, whom he did not name, would be brought to justice and exposed before the people.

In another incident, he said, party members had embezzled money earmarked for building a Soviet-Afghan friendship hall in Kabul, but again did not elaborate.

Mr Najibullah's accusations came after his sharp remarks against the party on Thursday when he said corruption and nepotism have become widespread among cadres.

He also warned against inter-PDPA rivalries, saying party unity was essential if "victory in the struggle of the progressive forces against reactionaries is to be achieved."

"Those who don't agree with this must seriously think about their presence in the party," he said, adding that party unity was the sole path to overcome the country's problems.

Mr Najibullah, a 39-year-old former secret police chief, belongs to the PDPA's Parcham (banner) faction, which has been embroiled in a power and ideological struggle with the Khalq (people) faction since the party was founded in 1964.

Western diplomats monitoring Afghanistan from Islamabad say that patching up differences between the two factions was high on Mr Najibullah's priorities. Sunday Standard, July 13

جوینده یا بنده  
است  
The seeker  
is the finder"

# Afghan rebels march on in their holy war

From DAVID MORGAN

Peshawar: Some miss the cool waters of their mountain streams. Some miss their hands and feet, blown off by booby-traps, butterfly-bombs and land mines. Some miss their dead relatives, their pillaged flocks, houses, fields. Some miss the keen thrill of killing Soviets in righteous jihad — holy war.

"Offer me a tent, a blanket, a basket of food and a bag of money in Pakistan, or a Kalashnikov assault rifle in Afghanistan — and I will take the Kalashnikov and go home," proudly says Zalmay Zamarey, a Mamuzai tribesman from Kabul whose name means "Young Man Strong as a Tiger" in Pushtu.

"Au! Au!" agree his comrades excitedly, sitting on rope beds called charpoy in the gloom of a vegetable shop in the Kacha Ghari refugee camp just outside Islamabad, Pakistan.

Of the five million Afghans who have fled their country in the past eight years, three million remain here, waiting, plotting, buying guns, resting, then returning to fight.

Even though Afghans have travel documents and can journey throughout Pakistan — two million have emigrated to places like Iran — the majority hover near Peshawar in 300 camps where tents flap under sudden sandstorms and the temperature soars to 110 degrees in July.

All around them lies the charity of the world: trucks from Italy and West Germany, grain sacks labelled "gift of the European Community," Red Crescent tuberculosis treatment centres set up by Saudi Arabia.

The United States has donated about US\$420 million in aid since early 1980. During 1984 and 1985, US\$414 million was spent helping Afghan refugees, almost half of it by Pakistan. These people cost the world US\$1.13 million a day.

The alternative is to let the refugees starve. It is an option the Pakistanis refuse to contemplate. "They are our Muslim brothers," said Ahmed Khan of the Peshawar Afghan Refugees Commission. "We are bound by God's law to help them. And anyway, there is no way for us to close our borders to them. The frontier is too long."

Ahmed Khan is speaking of the 1,500-mile Durand Line, drawn by the British in the late 19th century. Now, 10,000 refu-

gees a month are trudging across the Durand Line.

When the exodus first began in July 1973 in response to internal upheavals in Afghanistan, only a few hundred refugees sought haven in Pakistan. In December 1979, when Afghan ruler Hafizullah Amin was murdered and Babrak Karmal was installed as president by the Soviets, the number jumped to 402,100. By now three million Afghans live here and another two million in other countries.

In just over six years, one third of Afghanistan's population has fled the country. At the Afghan Surgical Hospital, one of 30 operating in the Peshawar area, war victims show their wounds like medals.

They try to give the traditional greeting, salaam aleikum, "peace be with you," but in many cases they cannot touch their foreheads, because their hands have been blown off.

Bearded old men, young stalwarts with stubble on their chins, children on crutches lie or wander about the three-storey building. Hajan Waz lost his right hand defusing a mine just 10 days after he was married. He wants to go back to Afghanistan as soon as possible. "I will fight to the death," he says.

Weapons, particularly anti-aircraft weapons, remain in short supply. Some, like the single-shot bolt-action .303 rifle, can be easily bought in Pakistan. Gun shops abound in Peshawar. There is no question that China is selling arms to the Mujahdeen, including a simple, highly effective type of land mine.

Most weapons are captured Soviet Kalashnikovs. Chinese weapons are usually funnelled in through Pakistan, and ammunition is as easy to buy as groceries.

The Afghans are brave fighters, but are only slowly learning how to use light anti-tank weapons, SAM 7's, 12.7mm heavy machineguns and 60mm mortars. The skies are Soviet. The Mujahdeen have no air force.

A handful of captured tanks are displayed for propaganda purposes, but the Mujahdeen do not use them. Disorganisation and tribal feuds play into the Soviets' hands and are skillfully exploited by the KHAD, or secret police.

A centralised command does not exist. There are three or four Mujahdeen leaders, such as Amadshah Massoud, who have grabbed headlines. But there is

as yet no overall commander for the resistance.

Another misconception is that a long war of attrition in Afghanistan will ultimately benefit the Soviets. The very opposite may be true.

In taking on Afghanistan, the Soviets have taken on Islam. There is some evidence that the Afghan adventure is destabilising the Soviet Union's own considerable Moslem population: the Uzbeks, Tajiks, Kirghiz and Kazakhs, who were deliberately broken up into small "republics" under Stalin to avoid a dangerous pan-Islamic movement.

Potential aid for the Afghan rebels might come from Iran, if Iran can ever disentangle itself from its war with Iraq.

There is a certain futility in trying to keep Americans interested in this atrocious war. The Soviets are launching another surprise encirclement campaign in central Afghanistan.

Children in Peshawar hospitals are nursing stumps of limbs blown off by bombs that looked like pens, watches, rings, toy birds. Others, perched as many as 15,000, have been forcibly shipped off to the Soviet Union for indoctrination.

But the lead item on the May 26 Voice of America broadcast is a feel-good feature on the "Hands Across America" project.

Afghanistan is dusty, dull, far away.

The journalists and soldiers of fortune who used to haunt the Pearl Continental Hotel in Peshawar have gone home. The Geneva peace talks are stalemated.

"Our biggest fear is that we will be forgotten," said a Professor Majrooh in Peshawar. "We are fighting for our land, our liberty, our religion. What is happening here is a huge tragedy. Yet the world's memory is so short. Do not forget us. Please, do not forget us."

Most of the refugees in Peshawar are old men, women and children. Young men escort them through the passes over the Durand Line, then go back to fight.

Zalmay Zamarey is one of the few young men in the Kacha Ghari camp. "I am here to rest my muscles," he said. "When Ramadan is over, I go back. I have one son. He will be a good fighter some day. I will teach him."

How old is the boy?

"One," said Zalmay.

It promises to be a long war.

SUNDAY MORNING POST, JULY 13

# War in Afghanistan almost over, says U.S. newsmen

By NUSRAT JAVEED

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 12: Arthur Bonner, an American journalist focusing on Afghanistan for the New York Times, has claimed that the war was over in Afghanistan as 'no fighting spirit is left amongst the Afghan people who are eager to see normal life restored in their country'. He also believed that the Russians in Afghanistan had a strategy enabling them to win the war on their own terms. "Even tomorrow they could pull half of their estimated 118,000 soldiers back from Afghanistan without losing any of their objectives in consequence."

Bonner travelled into Afghanistan, courtesy various rebel groups, extensively. His stay in that country comprising at least nine major trips is accumulated to seven months. He could visit 18 out of 29 provinces of Afghanistan, and moved into cities like Kandahar and Chazni.

Though fragile looking and fairly oldish, Bonner proved tenacious to bear travels into that rugged country mostly done through primitive means and under cover. He had a sense of observation; it reflects in two series of articles he wrote for NYT; one, discussing the Russian morale, and the other covering the opium production in Afghanistan—a trade in which he believed the Mujahideen were actively involved. Rightly, he calls himself the 'sole American painting a bleak and gloomy picture of the war in Afghanistan'.

Bonner narrated panoramic anecdotes to substantiate his thesis that the Afghan population was tired of the seven-year-old war. He believed that the ill-equipped, badly trained and divided Afghan resistance was mainly responsible for such a situation. The Rebels were further isolated because of the patient Russian tactics. "Russia's strategic objectives", Bonner said, "are well defined. At this moment they merely want to protect the main cities, ensure smooth supplies and break the rebels into the smallest possible groups having no effective links with each other". Instead of indiscriminate killing as alleged by the popular media, the Russian forces were selective to hit the bases of Mujahideen with the exclusive purpose of pushing them back into the high mountains. Bonner thought that the Russians seemed to have convinced the majority in Afghan villages that "you could keep your weapons, adhere to tribal traditions and keep praying the Islamic way". The majority of the population also think that Russians only retaliate if attacked.

To prove his position that a true-like understanding was reached between the Russians and the mass of the Afghan population, Bonner recalled two of his trips to Afghanistan this year. In early January he went with a German medical team to Kandahar and its adjacent areas. "I travelled for around 1000 miles and did not witness even a single combat or observed any bomb explosions", he said.

A month ago he was in Chazni, one of the five important cities of Afghanistan. Though the city is reported to be encircled by various rebel groups posted within 25 to 30 km radius around the city, "the life was normal and all buildings were in perfect condition without any bomb holes. The city's three colleges, school network and hospital were functioning normally and commerce flowed smoothly to and from the encircling villages". He said that the two visits established that the Mujahideen's claims regarding continuation of a protracted war in Afghanistan were "exaggerated". During his visits, however, he "heard of" some occasional urban guerrilla sabotage.

Bonner has observed that the Russians were intensifying their monitoring around the cities and making it more difficult for the rebels to penetrate into them. Last year he could go to many places in broad daylight using normal traffic and means. This year, however, he was forced to scale odd routes and that, too, in the dark. The Russians were also concentrating to break the resistance while choking their supply line. "You don't see them using tanks these days. Instead small air borne units are simultaneously engaged in many places in Afghanistan to destroy the Mujahideen's mobility and communications."

Bonner claimed that the Russians were using only 20 per cent of their fighting forces stationed in Afghanistan to combat resistance.

He thinks that the gradual induction of 'hard line communists in the Afghan army would lead to a thoroughly professional Afghan officer corps intensely indoctrinated'.

Bonner was very critical of the tactics adopted by the Mujahideen. "Despite seven years they failed to evolve a strategy. The rate of casualty is very high amongst them and most of their commanders are killed in big numbers." He said that Afghan resistance, instead of attacking and engaging the Russians in perpetual and prolonged battles, prefer to strengthen its sanctuaries high in

the mountains. "Mostly they was there for the Russians to attack", he observed. Strategically, Bonner believed, the Mujahideen should have concentrated in disrupting supplies coming from (Soviet Union) into Afghanistan through a single road. "In many

places they could have caused problems on this route".

He felt that the resistance was awfully scared of aerial attacks. "The moment they hear something flying in the air they run for cover and demand that they should be supplied with sophisticated weapons against the aeroplanes." Bonner, however, believes that the resistance could not realise the simple fact that the 'best defence against any aerial attack was not the 'Stingers' but trenches." He recalled Vietnam where, he said guerrillas protected their civilian population by simply telling them "how to dig in the group against massive American bombing". The Afghan Mujahideen on the contrary, expose the innocent civilians to unnecessary risks.

Certain attitudes adopted by the resistance were alienating them from the public too. "Instead of bringing their own supplies", Bonner observed, the "Mujahideen force the villagers enroute to supply them with bread and tea. When the civilian population is wounded because of the bombing provoked by their presence the Mujahideen show no sympathy for the innocent civilians." However, if a Mujahid is wounded, he is immediately taken to a hospital in Pakistan by very costly transport."

"There was a hospital near Shulgara built by the French", he said recalling another incident.

"Around 200 people were coming to that hospital daily. Many women, while going to that facility, would carry eggs and fruit for the female staff of that hospital. But the Mujahideen sitting around the hospital would snatch these things away from women".

He recalled many occasions when the local population in certain villages he passed through, showed agitation over his and his escort's presence in the village and forced them to leave. There were places where the local population adamantly refused to cooperate with his hosts.

Bonner did not believe reports that the Afghan rebels were supplied with sophisticated weapons. "I saw no 'Stingers' but rifles used during the Second World War", he said. He did not believe that the resistance was badly equipped as "supplies coming to them were spahoned off".

"Why don't he say," "see this matter from another angle. Maybe Washington just boasts that it was supplying sophisticated weapons to Afghans to appear tough. Maybe they are bluffing and are not serious to match their deeds with words".

Bonner supported all those who want that Pakistan should directly negotiate peace with Kabul in view of the poor performance of the rebellion to avoid Russian retaliation.

He was not bothered to speculate whether the American public would take his observations seriously. "Politicians all over the world hear what they want to hear. But I don't care".

He urged Pakistani and other newsmen to visit Afghanistan and see "realities on their own and never believe in their government".

BAKHITAR comments on this interview on 8/25:

"The so-called Afghan mujahideen are isolated from the people & they prefer to stay in mountains... Bonner has said in an interview with the daily Muslin of Pakistan that he had illegally entered Afghanistan along with the Afghan counter-revolutionaries who are lodged in Pakistan. (The Muslin quotes Bonner that he had noticed the indignation of the local people while they were passing through their villages. The people forced them to leave the villages & in some cases, the villagers refused to render any kind of assistance to them. The American journalist has stated that the counter-revolutionaries compelled the inhabitants of the villages to provide food-stuffs for them. Bonner points out that the claim of the so-called mujahideen in connection with the continuation of durable war is an exaggeration. Commenting on his visit to several residential centres in the DRA, Bonner says that life is normally going on in those localities. The condition of buildings is as usual & without any traces of bombardment. Schools & hospitals are functioning as normal & business activities are going on without hindrance. Bonner has stated that Pakistan should embark upon direct talks with the DRA for the peaceful solution of the situation around Afghanistan."

# Perils of covering Afghan war

Tough Soviet line, spy network scare off writers

By Christina Cameyer  
Special to The Christian Science Monitor

"We can take you right to Dr. Najib's palace," an Afghan resistance commander proclaimed, as if he were advertising a sightseeing tour of the Afghan communist leader's residence rather than offering to smuggle a Western journalist into the heart of Kabul, capital of Soviet-occupied Afghanistan.

He is unlikely to find many takers. Although a hard core of journalists — mostly Europeans — continues to make regular trips into distant corners of Afghanistan for several months each year, many others prefer to report on the war from Peshawar, in neighboring Pakistan.

Apprehension about going into Afghanistan has grown since the capture of French journalist Jacques Abochour in September 1984 and subsequent Soviet warnings that any reporter caught entering Afghanistan with the *mujahideen* (resistance fighters) would be killed. The following year, an American reporter was killed when Soviet helicopter gunships attacked his jeep in southern Afghanistan. Informed observers believe the Soviets were tipped off by Afghan agents among the *mujahideen* in Pakistan.

Western reporters say that in Afghanistan, even when they are hidden, word of their movements travels fast in the small border towns. On what was supposed to be a secret departure, one American said *mujahideen* on the streets here greeted him with, "Have a good trip to Jeledelek," his destination in Afghanistan.

The informant network has grown since high rewards have been offered by the Afghan government for assistance in the capture of Westerners. Dominique Vergos, a French photographer who has spent a total of three years inside Afghanistan since the war began in 1979, described how rapidly information can travel: "I had stayed in one house near Herat only for a morning. And three hours after I left, regime officials came around asking where the Western journalist was. We crossed the highway at night and stopped in a village beyond. By morning six tanks and armored personnel carriers had surrounded the village, followed by trucks carrying 500 Afghan Army soldiers. The *mujahideen* fought them all day and finally escaped."

Improved Soviet intelligence and the sharp increase in nighttime ambushes on resistance caravans have created concern — even among the old-timers. "In the old days, we could travel wherever we wanted in the countryside, often in broad daylight," says French photographer Pierre Issot-Sargent. "But it's definitely gotten a lot tougher now."

At a time when journalists are having increasing doubts about going into Afghanistan, some *mujahideen* commanders are growing less eager to take them. They feel that the Afghan cause has not been furthered as they had hoped.

"Film crews and writers have been coming and going for years," one shrugs, "but we haven't seen many results — either in bringing our problems to the



'Mujahideen' in Afghanistan: finding it riskier to take reporters along

attention of the world or in getting the weapons supply we need."

Extensive reporting about guerrilla strongholds can often do more harm than good. Many observers believe the April attack on Jawar, a key guerrilla supply base near the Pakistan border, was triggered in part by a spate of articles published in European newspapers. "Certainly the Soviets had that information already from informants, but all the publicity made it a question of prestige for them to knock out Jawar," says Peter Jouvenal, a British photographer.

There are no permanent newspaper correspondents or Western news bureaus in Peshawar. Most news on the fighting is written by the wire services in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, and is largely based on reports from Western embassies in Kabul. Observers are at times skeptical of their accuracy, as the diplomats have little freedom of movement.

Resistance reports — the other main source used — suffer from exaggerated claims of Soviet and Afghan casualties and *mujahideen* victories. Even Westerners who work full time in Peshawar with the Afghans on humanitarian aid projects find it difficult to obtain an accurate picture of events in Afghanistan.

Many correspondents spend only a few weeks in Peshawar and rely on information given by resistance party spokesmen. "They are talking to the talkers, not the fighters," one guerrilla complains. "You never see all those politicians and bureaucrats at the battlefield. Journalists need to go to the front to see things for themselves." But when reporters do report from "inside," they are often able only to catch a glimpse of limited territory.

One proposed way to reduce the need for Westerners to go into Afghanistan and to provide more consistent, on-the-spot reporting would be to use Afghans. Several Western-sponsored projects are underway to train Afghan cameramen who will be stationed in key spots throughout the country. There is also talk of equipping some of the new reporters with electronic transmitters to enable them to relay reports to Pakistan instantaneously.

REL ARMY'S BIG PUSH by Arthur Kent  
SCMP 9/28

Panjshir Valley: The war in Afghanistan is swinging the way of the Russians. Two years ago, the mere mention of the Afghan resistance stronghold of the Panjshir Valley would strike terror in the heart of any young Red Army conscript.

Leonid Vylcou, a Soviet deserter now living with the *Mujahideen*, puts it this way: "If you discovered your unit would be sent up the Panjshir, you wrote home immediately. It would probably be your last chance to say goodbye."

But this year has witnessed a dramatic change in fortunes in the Afghan war of attrition. No longer is the Red Army facing slow defeat at the hands of an elusive, uncanny enemy. Outgunned and hamstrung by supply shortages, the Panjshir's *Mujahideen* are unable to move effectively against Soviet positions in the valley.

The Red Army command enjoys the luxury of keeping its troops in protected garrisons while the air force turns the screws on both guerrillas and civilians. And unlike their leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, who speaks of pulling his forces out of Afghanistan, the fighter pilots carry in their bomb racks a far more convincing statement of Soviet intentions.

The day after Gorbachev's troop withdrawal announcement in July, I witnessed an hour-long raid by a flight of Soviet SU-25s. An eight-year-old Panjshiri farm boy was killed; eight other villagers were badly wounded.

The bombing is part of an uncompromising campaign to push the Afghan resistance — fighters and civilian supporters — further into the countryside and away from the cities and transport corridors so vital to the Kremlin's strategic interests in the region.

As battle-hardened guerrillas like Mohammed Hasham learned this year, the Red Army has taken a deadly and imaginative new approach to the war. One night last March, while Hasham was leading 100 men across the north-west frontier for the summer lightning season, the darkness suddenly erupted in blistering gunfire and sweeping searchlights. Hasham and his men — experts in the art of ambush — had themselves walked into a trap set by Soviet commandos.

Three of the Russian bullets that found Hasham tore a painful but harmless path

through his body: smashing his ribs, but leaving lungs and organs untouched. The rounds that struck his right arm, however, performed up to Soviet ordnance specifications.

"The bullets exploded on the bone," Hasham explained.

Hasham had been lucky enough to crawl away from the ambush and into the relative safety of the flood-swollen Kabul river, which swept him clear of the Russian guns.

Survival, rather than taking the offensive, is more than ever before the *Mujahideen's* top priority. Even Hasham's commander, Ahmed Shah Massoud — the most accomplished of resistance commanders — has been forced into a purely defensive posture.

Aside from the capture last month of a remote Afghan government garrison, his crack guerrilla fighters have been idle for much of the past summer. Hunted by ground attack planes and hemmed in by superior ground forces, they have been unable to achieve their leader's prime objective: uniting the region's various resistance groups in a sustained drive against the Red Army.

With his enormous personal charisma and his organizational skills, Massoud has salvaged something from an otherwise grim season. In the nine months since he moved into the North from his Panjshir Valley stronghold, he has brought far-flung *Mujahideen* parties a few steps closer to forming a unified military front.

Now, however, the Soviets appear to be placing a higher priority on winning control of the provinces above the Panjshir, the territories bordering the Soviet Union itself. Consequently, Massoud has turned all his efforts to drawing the northern *Mujahideen* together.

A stay in one of his camps is an exercise in endurance: days of bored inactivity; moments of sheer terror as Russian jets suddenly howl overhead.

Having thrown the resistance off balance, and with his warplanes and special forces striking at will in remote country areas, Gorbachev can easily afford the withdrawal of 7,000 soldiers — mainly non-combatant support units — by the end of the year.

## INSIDE KANDAHAR CITY

Kandahar is a city under siege, but ironically it's the Soviet invaders and Afghan army troops who are at the disadvantage. Scattered throughout the city are about 30 army posts — some once schools and hotels, all bearing the scars of constant battle — to which the Afghan soldiers are confined. They also have a large base, referred to as the "Firka," in the north of the city. An estimated 30,000 Russians are concentrated at the airport about 12 kilometers southeast of the city.

Soviets only come into the city to resupply the outposts, and then it's in large numbers of troops supported by many tanks and APCs. At such times the mujahideen find it expedient to melt away into the back streets.

During the daytime the mujahideen control perhaps half of the city, such as the bazaar areas I visited, and it's not normal for government patrols to work that area. Elsewhere Afghan army forces hold greater sway, and periodically enter the bazaars to round up conscripts for the army. I was told the official age is 19-39 years but the army will snatch boys as young as 15. You rarely see young men in the bazaars, just the elderly.

At night the city becomes mujahideen turf. Every night I was there the sky was illuminated with tracer indicating an attack on some post.

Though somewhere in the city the sounds of shooting could always be heard during my visits, on the surface the situation appeared quite normal. Chemists and barbershops were open for business, and you could buy fresh bread, meat and yogurt; children ran and played ball among the fat-tailed sheep tethered for sale; men with push carts hawked vegetables and fruit, and men lounged in tea shops sipping glasses of sweet tea while others smoked hashish. (Although drugs are readily available here I never once saw any muj using them. "Hasish haram!" — forbidden — they said.)

Mercedes-Benz buses — I saw one with the logo "Harry Tyrol Tours" — trundle the streets providing local and provincial services. There is a twice-weekly bus from Kandahar to both Kabul and Herat, and the 385-kilometer trip to Kabul costs about 200 Afghans (about U.S. \$1.70). Only children and the aged travel, however, because young men face the danger of conscription.

In January 1985 Babrak Karmal reportedly announced that military service would be reduced from three years to two, but this did not impress any Afghans. They dismiss Radio Kabul as all lies — "Communists tell lies ... always lies!" — and the mention of Babrak Karmal's name would invariably be accompanied by a contemptuous spit against the wall.

There is no postal service in Kandahar except for military use. You also won't find electricity or cinemas — the mujahideen have cut the former and banned the latter. The muj also control the prices of all foodstuffs and other essentials, with marginal concessions for themselves. For example, 50 kilograms (110 pounds) of sugar costs 3,000 Afis (U.S. \$25) for the public and only 2,600 Afis for the muj. Likewise, one kilogram (2.2 pounds) of green tea runs 800/640 Afis and one liter of petrol 50/40 Afis.

But it's not all a bed of roses; the harsher realities of city life were obvious every time you turned a corner, or looked into the faces of the people. Most of the shops and houses in Kandahar I saw were deserted and many reduced to rubble, the result of indiscriminate Soviet bombardment. Many of the surrounding villages are completely destroyed from deliberate Soviet attack bombing. An ex-mayor of Kandahar whom I met estimated

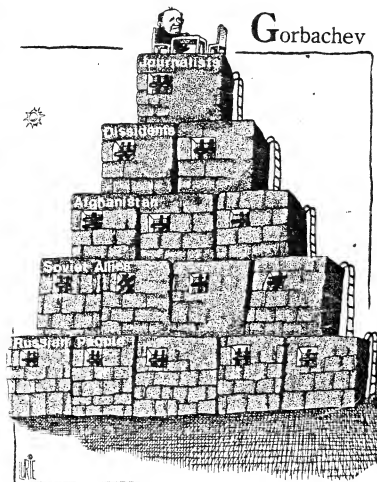
the present city population at no more than 10,000 — 20,000, down from a previous high of 150,000 in his time. The people have simply fled to Pakistan as refugees.

Jake Borders

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE 9/86



Gun emplacement for a 12.7mm DShK HMG in the vineyards of Kandahar Province. Numerous foxholes and tunnels blend in with the natural cover.



NYCT

10/26

**A**FGHAN Communist Party leader Najibullah and his Muslim rebel enemies have unwittingly teamed up to keep the bustling capital city of Kabul on edge all summer.

The former secret police chief, suddenly installed as party boss last May, is dismissing corrupt officials and shaking up cozy bureaucracies with blunt demands for "Action, action, action."

What the city has been getting, though, is rockets, rockets, rockets as guerrillas hammer away at Soviet and Afghan army bases on the edges of the capital after the 10 pm curfew.

If Kabul residents don't hear the rockets slamming in, there are always the army's outgoing artillery booms or the whoosh and flash of its BM-21 multiple rocket launchers to remind them the seven-year-long war is near.

The tough talk and noisy nights mark a change for Kabul, which had become used to the blander style of former party chief Babrak Karmal and enjoyed relative peace last winter.

The night calm should return later this year with the freezing cold that drives away all but the most dedicated foes of Kabul's Communist Government and the 115,000 Soviet troops stationed there since 1979 to defend it.

But the party, clearly inspired by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's efficiency drive, is launching longer-term changes whose turns Western diplomats say still cannot be predicted.

Najibullah, a burly man just turned 40 whom Kabulis have nicknamed "The Ox," has tracked some political rivals and warned four cabinet ministers they could lose their jobs if they fail to pass muster at new corporate-style quarterly reviews.

Without announcing it, he has taken over as commander-in-chief of the armed forces in violation of the constitution, party officials confirm.

In speeches and tightly guarded "Meet the people" tours in and outside the capital, he has broached formerly taboo subjects like corruption, misuse of Soviet aid and army desertion.

While the pace seems to be fast, the new leader has been wary of alienating the old guard, which organised protests in Kabul after Karmal, aged 57, was pushed aside on May 4.

Karmal, still the country's figurehead president, has en-

joyed a renaissance of support from party moderates who now see him as more of an Afghan nationalist than is his clearly pro-Soviet replacement, Western diplomats said.

"Najibullah has avoided many of the formal things a new boss would do," one envoy observed, "like purging the party."

"But he has been doing all the power things like taking over as commander-in-chief and expanding the central committee to stack it in his favour."

"We are waiting to see whether he'll purge the party at the next plenum or have to live with the Karmal faction for some time to come." The lively trading city shows signs of the confusion.

Large heroic-style murals of Karmal still cover walls in the centre while pictures of Najibullah dominate party souvenir stands.

Karmal's photograph is gone from many places where it used to hang but the new leader's face has not replaced it.

"It would confuse the people too much if we changed suddenly," said party spokesman Zia Aziz. "Officials have been told to put up posters of the whole politburo but few have yet."

Every few days, soldiers comb Kabul streets looking for draft dodgers to press into the shifty army Najibullah wants to build up. Residents report seeing teenagers torn from family cars or pulled off buses to be drafted.

The army, whose strength chief of general staff Lieutenant-General Shahnawaz Tanai refused to reveal, may be up to 55,000 now after dropping to half its pre-war level of 80,000, the diplomats said.

But envoys who saw troops lounging at Kabul's golf course rather than attack rebels in nearby Paghman this month say they doubt the army's fighting spirit has grown with its numbers.

Judging by the large fleets of helicopters and military vehicles rushing out there, diplomats said this summer's battles around Paghman were some of the closest and toughest in years.

But city residents, long used to the constant drone of aircraft overhead, go about their business during the day and ignore the conflict unless they or relatives live near it.

The nighttime curfew starts with the rumbling of armoured personnel carriers taking up guard positions and the barking of stray dogs frightened when unusually large patrols pass by.

Troops fire tracer bullets or sets of up to 12 parachute flares that seem to hang forever in the night sky casting an eerie orange glow on suspected rebel hiding spots below.



A concerned young man watches as an Afghan soldier checks his papers to see whether he is exempt from military service.

While many rockets can be heard only in the districts where they land, the return artillery fire from Soviet bases wakes sleeping residents and rattles windows all across Kabul.

A rocket hit the Polish Embassy with a bang last month.

Even louder, some envoys said, was the ambassador's wife complaining she was fed up with Kabul and wanted to go home.

Nobody missed the August 26 fireball that billowed about 1,000 feet into the midnight sky as a large Afghan army arms depot blew up in a mysterious five-hour chain of blasts.

Showing the new "take charge" style, Najibullah and other leaders rushed to the scene to oversee what witnesses said was a rather chaotic evacuation of thousands of nearby residents.

Officials said a short circuit caused the fires while the diplomats credited the rebels with direct rocket hits.

Rumours then bounced around like the sounds of stray gunfire that echo off the surrounding hills at night until a visitor can no longer pinpoint them.

An office worker living near the destroyed arms depot said Kabulis felt worried but helpless about the war they tried to forget. "If the Mujahideen (Muslim war) don't sleep, I can't sleep."

He had a simple way of judging Afghan leaders before and af-

ter the 1978 communist coup: "King Zahir Shah was good - no rockets. Mohanmad Daoud was good - no rockets. But Karmal? Najibullah? rockets, rockets, rockets..."

Meanwhile, north of the Hindu Kush, beyond the mountains that loom over most of Afghanistan, the flat plains favour Kabul's Communist Government in its war against Muslim guerrillas.

The treeless steppes give off rising columns of dust with every passing caravan, tipping off patrols in sleepy towns like Mazar-i-Sharif and making it hard to move anywhere unnoticed.

The Soviet Union is only a short flight away in the Mi-24 helicopter gunships ideal for attacking rebel convoys, nearer still in the MiG and Sukhoi fighter jets that can streak south from central Asian airbases to strike at guerrilla hideouts.

The "Mujahideen" are 40 days march away from the guns and money that Western, Chinese and Muslim agents supply their parties in the Pakistani city of Peshawar.

Army commandos patrol rebels' donkey trails through the mountains as never before.

After years of often heavy fighting, the Soviet and Afghan armies appear to have gained the upper hand over the strategic northern plains.

- Reuter.

# From a Correspondent in Kabul

KABUL's scruffy golf course, stuck between an Afghan army base and a mountain resort crawling with Muslim rebels, must have more hazards than any other links in the world.

The parched fairways are pocked and rutted from guerrilla rockets, Soviet tanks and other trespassers who stray this way without the slightest idea of proper country club etiquette.

Concentrating on that birdie putt can be murder when helicopter gunships, fighter jets and artillery shells whiz overhead on their way to strike rebel hideouts.

The word "bunker" takes on a new meaning when players scan the fairways for sand traps but spot only the fortified army posts on the surrounding hillslopes, their artillery ready to fire away.

It quickly dawns on even the rustiest weekend duffer that his slice, the disused trout farms behind the first green or that dogleg on the sixth may be the least of his problems here.

Even the cheater's dream — a local rule allowing players to tee up the ball everywhere but on the oiled-sand "greens" — fades as the sheepish player realises he is teeing up a wedge shot just a few yards from the cup.

The course, which has many more than its regulation nine holes but few markers left to indicate the fairway, is special not for its design but for the fact that it operates at all.

Afghanistan is now in its seventh year of fighting between Kabul's Soviet-backed Government and guerrilla Mujahideen (Islamic Warriors) armed by the West, China and Muslim states.

Some of this summer's heaviest fighting has taken place nearby, around the former royal hill resort of Paghman only a few kilometres beyond the first tee.

Rebels there fire 122 mm rockets at the Afghan army's eighth division headquarters just down the valley towards Kabul and the large Soviet base at Khairkhana on the city's northern edge.

Being in Kargha, the furthest area foreigners are allowed to stray from the capital's centre, the course at times can seem like the battlefield itself.

At midnight on August 26, a large arms depot at eighth division headquarters blew sky high, sending up a fireball 300 metres into the air. Rebels said a rocket from Paghman did it.

The more active two-somes and threesomes among the club's dozen or so members arrived two weeks ago to find the course covered with Afghan soldiers clearly stalling before carrying out an order to attack Paghman.

Any drive off the elevated first tee — sliced, hooked or straight down the middle — had a 50-50 chance of hitting a soldier. A good chip on to the second green would have ricocheted off the squat armoured personnel carrier parked there.

About 50 other APCs, trucks and jeeps stopped elsewhere on the course.

"They were waiting for late morning, by which time the Mujahideen would have pulled back into the hills," one diplomat said. "The Soviet advisers were going around trying to galvanise the troops, but they were having none of it."

The soldiers should not be blamed for failing to recognise the fairways as the course is so bare of any vegetation that it could drive a hungry goat to despair.

It also has familiar touches for them like spent Kalashnikov automatic rifle cartridges and discarded cans of Soviet food.

One caddy trembled when a small plastic jar was approached. "Dangerous — boom-boom," he cried, gesturing that it could be a disguised anti-personnel mine. It wasn't.

Speaking only Dari (Afghan Persian), the caddies have come up with some imaginative ways to communicate with the players.

Cries of "Paghman Paghman" with gestures like cannons firing at the rebels are the compliment for a booming drive.

The club members, all foreign diplomats making the most of their hardship posting, are strictly weekend golfers since the Government will only allow them on the course before noon on Fridays, the holiday in the Muslim week.

One club member was philosophical about it all.

"Don't forget you can get some great roll out here," he advised, nearing the par five sixth hole.

—Reuter.



Afghan army soldiers on parade during a rally to support pro-Afghan Pakistani tribesmen in Kabul.



An Afghan soldier stands guard outside Kabul golf course near an army personnel carrier disabled by Muslim rebel attacks.

—Reuter pictures.



by William Eaton in the IHT 9/18

**KABUL, Afghanistan** — Despite the Soviet Union's widespread influence here, seven years after the Soviet military occupation began, there is no sign of a controlled economy in Kabul's bustling bazaars.

A free market flourishes, as it has for centuries in this caravan crossroads, and consumers have their choice of some of the best of Western goods. Japanese stereos, Swiss watches, Finnish toilet paper, German and Dutch beer, Scotch whiskey and American blue jeans can be purchased by anyone with enough afghanis, the local currency.

That is in sharp contrast to the situation in Moscow, where such merchandise is either unavailable or constantly in short supply.

So sophisticated is the bazaar that some merchants gladly accept foreign currencies.

Kabul even has a money bazaar, where foreign money is bought and sold without regard to the official rates fixed by the Bank of Afghanistan. At the bazaar, the U.S. dollar ranks far above the Soviet ruble in desirability.

Officially, the rate is 56 afghanis for one U.S. dollar. At the bazaar, though, it is possible to get as many as 143 afghanis for a dollar. The ruble, valued at \$1.40 in Moscow, brings only 25 afghanis at the bazaar. The dual currency system was described as "half-legal" by Amandoddin Salyed Amin, deputy chairman of Afghanistan's council of ministers. He is in charge of government relations with business.

"Somehow, it's accepted by the government," Mr. Amin said in an interview with foreign journalists.

"If private parties want to import a TV set from Japan, they acquire foreign currency where they can."

The abundance of imported luxury goods seems incongruous in Afghanistan, one of the world's poorest countries, which has been fighting a guerrilla war since 1978. The Soviet Union has sent in about 120,000 troops to deal with the guerrillas, who are being backed heavily by U.S. cash and weapons.

But the war, mostly far from the Kabul city limits in recent months, does not seem to interfere with the lively commerce that begins soon after dawn every day in hundreds of small shops.

Diplomats based in Kabul said that the goods on sale in the shops are only a small fraction of the amount brought into the country. Many of the goods imported from such countries as Japan, West Germany and Switzerland are promptly smuggled out of Afghanistan to Pakistan or Iran.

There is no way to estimate the total value of imported consumer goods. But an Asian diplomat said

that Afghanistan buys about \$200 million worth of luxury goods from Japan every year.

Although the profusion of individual entrepreneurs is hardly consistent with the Soviet model, trying to change the Afghans' deeply ingrained trading habits undoubtedly would cause great resentment and probably would not work. So the Soviet officials look the other way — except when they go to the bazaars themselves to buy electronic goods, watches, clothes and other items that cannot be found in the Soviet Union.

There is no question that Soviet nationals who come to work or live in Afghanistan take advantage of the bazaar. On a recent flight from Kabul to Moscow, most of the Soviet passengers had three or four large cartons of Afghan purchases.

FORUM subscriptions make nice presents.

## U.S. Aid to Rebels in Afghanistan Could Weaken Resistance, Critics Say

By James Rupert  
Washington Post Service

**PESHAWAR, Pakistan** — The United States is launching a "humanitarian aid" program for anti-Soviet resistance fighters in Afghanistan that some diplomats say could inadvertently weaken the resistance by fostering corruption and luring Afghan guerrillas away from the front.

U.S. officials say the project is unusual because the Agency for International Development will be used to send funds to a guerrilla movement in a virtually ungoverned war zone.

In the coming weeks, AID will provide money and material to the fragile alliance of Afghan resistance parties here who are to distribute it to the fighting fronts inside Afghanistan.

The supplies will include "nonlethal" goods, such as U.S. military surplus boots and sleeping bags, and equipment for schools and clinics in areas of Afghanistan dominated by the resistance.

AID will not send Americans into Afghanistan and will be unable to directly monitor the disbursement of its supplies inside the country.

The parties that will channel the money are widely viewed by many private aid officials as being corrupt and inefficient. Therefore, many observers in Pakistan say they fear that the U.S. aid may harm the resistance by enlarging party bureaucracies at the expense of more effective fighting units within Afghanistan.

Private aid officials and Afghan academics in Pakistan say the parties — whose leaders seldom if ever return to Afghanistan — are largely isolated from the fighting fronts there. They argue that the money should go directly to commanders inside the country.

Many analysts agreed with a Western diplomat who argued that "the patterns of Western aid have been bureaucratizing the resistance" and "moving its center of gravity from the battlefields to Peshawar."

He expressed concern that, with American aid encouraging the parties to build bureaucracies in Pakistan, it will actually draw talented and educated Afghans from the fronts to more comfortable desk jobs.

"The real resistance is inside," said Olivier Roy, a French scholar on Afghanistan who has visited the country several times during the war. "The Americans should work to make the fighters less dependent on the Peshawar bureaucrats" instead of more so.

Officials of the private, mainly European, relief organizations already sending aid into Afghanistan said that AID is ill-suited for what one European called "guerrilla-style foreign aid."

"USAID is used to working with the bureaucracies of a host government," he said, "but here there are no Afghan ministries to work with — so they're trying to artificially create some."

U.S. officials said the decision to channel the bulk of the aid through the fragile alliance of seven resistance parties was meant partly to reinforce the alliance's thin shell of unity. But many observers recalled a similar attempt by the resistance's Arab allies to unite several of the fundamentalist parties in 1983, which broke up amid squabbles over how to divide the aid money.

U.S. officials defend their decision to work with the alliance, saying it is the only way to radically increase the flow of aid to Afghanistan's devastated civilian population.

"The potential benefits are so great," said an official in Washington, "that it is well worth the investment" to try to build the alliance into an effective institution for delivering the aid.

The officials insist that they will be wary of corruption, but concede that AID will be able to account directly for its money only until it crosses the Pakistani-Afghan border.

"We do have a problem monitoring funds inside" Afghanistan, an official said.

The U.S. officials said they are encouraged by their early work with the alliance's health and education committees, which are working on the projects to establish clinics and schools. "We've already seen some positive changes in their ability to work together," one official said.



DRA STAMPS  
1984

Western diplomats in Islamabad, Pakistan's capital, said that the Reagan administration wants to strengthen the resistance, in part, to challenge the Soviet Union on the Afghan issue in political forums such as the United Nations.

IHT 10/15

Stephen Rosenfeld writes about the AFGHAN RESISTANCE in the Washington Post on 9/19:

In the barren camps where 3 million Afghans grit out exile in Pakistan and in the headquarters of the Afghan resistance in the border city of Peshawar, fear hangs like the dust in the air: fear that the United States is going to let the freedom fighters down.

I saw it, felt it, in a tent in the slag heap of a camp called Hawaii, where 40 refugees instantly collected to offer two unannounced American visitors their heart-rending stories of struggle and flight.

Why do you fight? I asked.

"Islam."

What does Islam mean?

"Jihad," holy war, murmured a boy of 5 as old men nodded assent.

A man in his 20s, not long returned from "inside," spoke up: Why does America not send Stingers—the anti-aircraft missiles that, in the Afghan imagination anyway, would let the guerrillas even the odds?

The same fear of being kept on a short leash, of being at the mercy of a great power's larger designs, marked the responses The Post's Rick Weintraub and I got from officials of three of the four "fundamentalist" groups in the seven-party resistance alliance. Shrewd, tough men, each was at pains to say he was no "second Khomeini." Each feared being discarded in the shuffle of a second Reagan-Gorbachev summit.

In a modest but adequate-looking surgical hospital in Peshawar that holds some of the few guerrillas who have made it back wounded—and what grievous wounds—it was impossible not to reflect on how vulnerable the resistance is to foreign currents over which it has no control.

It was precisely to take out insurance against slippage that the resistance sent a first delegation to Washington in June. Even the groups participating now concede the mission was a disaster. It asked more (recognition) than the administration would give. It lent itself to the Soviet caricature of the resistance as an American stooge. It split the *mujaheddin* on the sensitive issue of the nature of links with the United States.

It is quickly borne in on a visitor that the separate groups are sharp rivals, their tribal and ideological differences compounded by their being beholden to different Moslem and Arab paymasters. Listening to one Afghan complain that his group was not getting ink in the Western press, I felt that the incredible battlefield valor of the resistance is being frittered away in its political disarray.

Americans are uncomfortable with questions about our constancy. To the resistance people visiting him in Washington, for instance, President Reagan pledged his "wholehearted commitment. Your goal is our goal. . . ." At its face, this is a statement on which the president cannot conceivably deliver. The Pakistanis do it better. Their help to the resistance is immense, and dangerous for them, but quiet; they do not shove it in Moscow's face. Indeed, they seem to look for occasions to speak positively of Moscow's approach to negotiating an end to the war. If a deal ever nears on the Reagan watch, the presi-

dent's way will be the harder for the promises of open-ended support he has strewn in his own path.

Actually, I suspect that Afghans already have a premonition of what may come. Moscow's scorched-earth tactics increasingly force the guerrillas to allot precious cargo capacity to food (even while Moscow feeds peasant-swollen Afghan cities with American grain). Inhabiting a land long the battleground of empires, the tribes know about pressure, bribery and hard concessions. These are their historical ways of accommodating to life in a cruel corner of the world. They have survived not simply by fighting endlessly but by sensing when to stop. The "bandits" and "puppets," as the Afghans sides now call each other, could come to that.

Mikhail Gorbachev has certified that, for Moscow as well as for everyone else, the war is a "bleeding wound." Good, said the Americans, the Russians are beginning to hurt; that's what it will take for them to bargain their way out. But the going is slow. Gorbachev's summer announcement of a unilateral drawdown of six regiments was presented by him as a good-faith gesture that deserved to be matched by the

guerrillas' sponsors. Washington did not match it and, when it inquired what more Moscow had in mind, got a dusty answer. Probably only in circumstances of political progress can an orderly winding down of the war proceed.

Gorbachev suggests a "widened" Kabul government "with the participation in it of those political forces that find themselves beyond the country's borders"; this formulation excludes the resistance. Reagan suggests a negotiation between the "warring parties," meaning Moscow and the resistance; this formulation excludes the Kabul regime. Stalemate.

The United Nations keeps Afghanistan-Pakistan talks going. They have come to—stuck on—the length of the period of Soviet troop withdrawal. Since withdrawal is meant to *begin* at the same time that outside support for the resistance *ends*, the question becomes this: How long do the departing Russians get to clobber a resistance cut off from reinforcements and fresh supplies? The current numbers on the table (the Russians want three or four years, the Pakistanis four or so months) suggest that neither side is near hard choosing.

For all that, I left South Asia thinking that at some point maneuver and exhaustion may yet bring within reach an easing of the situation,



BY MAUREEN LAMGRAY

though perhaps not a settlement in the conventional sense. At that point the United States will have to decide whether to continue supporting the maximal goals of the Afghan resistance. If the United States backs off, cries of betrayal will surely resound in our own political debate. Others will observe that the criers are ready to fight till the last Afghan.

Here it is worth recalling that the United States, seeing no particular strategic menace, had accepted the coup that brought a communist regime to power in Kabul in 1978. It was only the Soviet invasion 20 months later that led the American government, with little reflection, to up the ante and to decide to undo that coup in order to ensure that the Afghan government reflects the will of the Afghan people.

To view the carnage inflicted by Soviet intervention is to be strongly tugged to pledge fidelity to the full goals of the resistance. But that is also the recipe for endless war and further carnage. The Pakistanis, I think, have a more realistic view. They say their objective is simply to get the Russians out. Unlike the Americans, they do not set standards of popular democracy that a successor Afghan government must meet.

Peeling back the Soviet occupation would meet the strategic anxieties that arose in this country when the Red Army invaded Afghanistan and moved Russia one pawn closer to the Persian Gulf. True, it would mean letting the Afghans find their own way—partly by battle, partly by consultation—to a new pattern of self-rule. It would give rein to Afghan elements both more leftist and more fundamentalist than most Americans would care to live next door to. But of course we are not next door. The Pakistanis, who are, and who are our friends, and who know something about Afghanistan, which we really do not, insist that they simply want the Russians out. We should be considering the possibilities.

From the editors:

There is good news & bad news. We have often complained in this column that there has been a dearth of news about Afghanistan in the press. This time there has been an abundance of reportage. The bad news is that most of the news is bad. There is probably more in this issue than your eye can meet; we suggest a magnifying glass. We'll hope for more gracious spacing in the next issue.

Aside from what has turned up in print, there are, as usual, lots of rumors: i.e., some Islamic leaders are negotiating with Najib to arrange some sort of coalition government; the US granted asylum to a former Afghan communist official who is now fomenting unrest in Queens; Sultan Ali Keshtmand is out of a job; "night letters" are being circulated in the US slurring various segments of the Afghan community. (We shall try to have one for the next issue unless this turns out to be an intangible rumor.)

Afghanistan is again on the UN General Assembly agenda & a delegation from the Peshawar-based Islamic Alliance is in New York to lobby for representation in that organization.

The FORUM will have a booth at the Middle East Studies Assn. meeting in Boston, November 20-23. We'll hope to see some of you there.

It has been a long time since we have received and abstracts. Has everyone stopped writing papers?

We continue to be grateful to all of you who send clippings, information, letters, comments, etc. Please keep doing it. The deadline for the next issue is December 15.

Mary Ann Siegfried  
Editor & Typist  
Len Oppenheim  
Treasurer & Proofreader

SEERIOUSLY SPEAKING....

Afghanistan, as a modern nation, was born under Cancer - July 18, 1973. Astrological, numerical patterns indicate that far from being demolished, Afghanistan will survive, flourish, actually become a major power in 1990... Horoscope of nation reveals exterior hard, tough as cactus, but inwardly sensitive, typical of Moon in Pisces.

Sidney Omar in the Journal  
Inquirer (Manchester, CT)

HOW MICE....

In 1983 the Soviets planted numerous antipersonnel mines (pressure type) around their positions & on strategic mountain peaks in the Panjshir Valley. In the spring of 1984, Mujahideen started to clear these minefields. They were surprised when they saw that a large number of pressure mines had already been defused. Mice had eaten the plastic covers which make the mines waterproof. Once the cover is destroyed, water can destroy the mine. In a country where its mice are resisting the invaders, Soviets cannot dream of victory.

AFGHAN NEWS (Jami'at)  
Vol. II, #20, 19/15/86

#### PRESSING PROBLEMS

Afghan refugees, working from Pakistan as the Afghan News Service, could begin generating and distributing news dispatches abroad by mid-March under a controversial program financed by Congress through the United States Information Agency.

The Hearst Corporation, which was to help set up distribution for the Afghan news organization, will not be associated with the project after Dec. 31, when a \$310,000 grant it received from the agency expires.

The announcement last summer that the Government would pay for journalistic training for Afghan refugees and create the news service prompted both outspoken criticism and enthusiastic support among news organizations.

Supporters hailed the move as an antidote to Soviet propaganda, and critics said that the Government, Hearst and Boston University, which was awarded \$180,000 to train the Afghans in journalism, were embarking on their own propaganda effort.

Hearst Metrotone News, the division of Hearst involved with the Afghan

project, decided not to remain associated with it although only about \$100,000 of the grant money had been spent and the distribution mechanism remained unfinished. Long negotiations to secure the cooperation of the Pakistani Government delayed the project.

Charles E. Shutt, general manager of Metrotone, said that the company would provide detailed plans for the distribution but did not offer to complete the original proposal because of other commitments. Asked if the controversy had colored Hearst's decision, Mr. Shutt said he would "rather not comment."

The agency is considering other organizations to replace Metrotone.

About 20 Afghan refugees are to be trained in print journalism and photography, and 10 others would be given small video cameras and taught video reporting techniques. Emphasis will be on short news items distributed in Europe and in developing countries, but not in the United States.

NYT 11/3

# Kremlin trying to cut cost of Afghan war

KABUL, Sept. 28: The Soviet Union is trying to cut out of its long war in Afghanistan by making Kabul's embattled regime work harder for the aid it receives, Soviet and Western diplomats here say.

Development aid, an integral part of the Kremlin's overall strategy in Afghanistan, no longer comes with no strings attached as it did following Kabul's 1978 Communist coup.

Many officials—non-military projects such as road repairs actually support the war effort while others like boosting natural gas exports northwards are needed to help Kabul pay off its mounting debts to Moscow, the Western diplomats said.

The Kremlin is also gradually cutting off Kabul's hard currency earnings by taking larger amounts of its prized fruits, carpets and Persian lamb pelt in annual barter deals for Soviet exports, according to Asian businessmen trading here.

"This country is slowly going into hooks to the Soviets and it will have to sell them its best export items for money to get out," one Western envoy commented.

Moscow's annual costs in Afghanistan, where it has kept about 15,000 soldiers since 1979 helping Kabul fight Mujahideen are a state secret.

The U.S. Government estimates the Kremlin spends about three billion dollars a year fighting in Afghanistan and has given about 800 million dollars in aid so far.

## MISLEADING

U.S. and other Western envoys here consider the official development aid figure of 121 million dollars for 1986 misleading since it exclusively covers military items as well.

Whatever the figures are, they say, Kabul clearly cannot pay for maintenance its shaky army and keep up its "hearts and minds" campaign of improved housing and social services in the cities.

Naibullah, the former secret-police chief who took over as Communist party leader four months ago, mentioned the squeeze on Kabul's pocketbook in a speech in Mazar-i-Sharif last June.

## GAS INCOME

"The Soviet don't leave enough gas for us," Naibullah said in a speech noting Moscow took 2.4 million of over 2.6 billion cubic meters produced in the gasfields bordering Soviet Central Asia.

Alghan states say Moscow pays 300 million dollars a year for gas, out the whole sum to apparently swallowed up by Kabul's debt repayments.

Mr. Savely Gendelman, Deputy Economic Counsellor at Moscow's highly guarded embassy here, said Reuters Source and would more than double during the Afghan five-year plan that began in March.

## DEBTS TO MOSCOW

At about \$5 per cent of it was on a loan basis here, he said, meaning Kabul was building up long-term debts to Moscow.

"For two or three years after the (1978) revolution, the scale of grant aid was very big," he said. "But that has been reduced and now most is commercial."

"Afghanistan's debt is increasing. But we have no problem with payment because they have the gas."

"It's the only way they have to repay Soviet credits."

The largest chunk of Moscow's aid over the next five years will go towards boosting the output of the natural gas Kabul pipes northwards, said Mr. Gendelman without giving any figures.

## COPPER MINE

Another project Moscow is developing is the 500 million dollar Anka copper mine in the Logar Valley, an area south of Kabul where Communist troops have dug several times this summer to flush stubborn Mujahideen out of their hideouts.

Several northern cities now receive Soviet electricity—although not for free as some officials interviewed in Mazar-i-Sharif believed—and Kabul will soon be added to the list.

Repairs to strategic roads churned up by tank tracks, mines and army convoys are daily reminders there is a war on.

Moscow is now focusing the bill for improvements to the Salang Tunnel, the vital 1.5 mile tunnel it dug through the rugged Hindu Kush mountains north of Kabul 22 years ago.

It is expanding the port town of Herat at the Afghan end of a near bridge linking the two countries over the Amu Darya river, and will repair or credit the Salang Highway that acts as Kabul's umbilical cord to the Soviet Union.

The road from Herat to Kabul has been badly damaged, both by the counter-revolutionaries and by the heavy traffic on it, Mr. Gendelman said.

Moscow delivered many foodstuffs and other goods to Kabul for free to spare potential embarrassing shortages in the capital. Mr. Gendelman said this was only partly true but gave no details.

## WHEAT & SUGAR

Alghan statistics say Kabul is paying commercial rates for its imports of Soviet wheat, due to triple this year to 160,000 tonnes, and for its doubled purchases of Soviet sugar.

Shopkeepers in Shari-Nau, a Kabul residential district, complain business is down since Soviet soldiers and advisers replaced freer-spending Western troops.

"They don't have much money because they are paid in coupons they use in their own stores," one jeweller said.

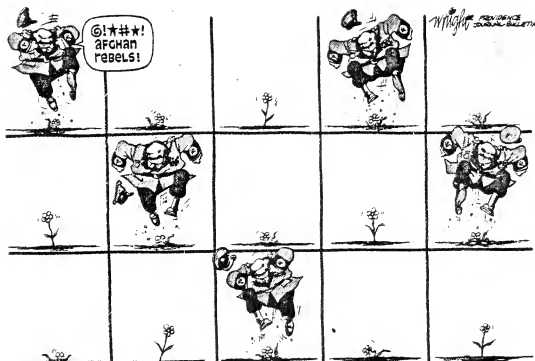
They don't have much money because they are paid in coupons they use in their own stores," one jeweller said.

"They buy some items and turn—but no gold, no carpets," he said.

Kabul will get about 80 per cent of its 149 million dollar foreign aid budget from Moscow this year, 15 per cent from other Communist States and the rest from the United Nations.

Despite its heavy involvement, the Soviet Union will not pay the 20 million dollars Kabul needs to complete non-Communist aid projects such as oil and gas projects.

"We do not want to go it for political reasons," he stated. "It is not right to let off aid to correct the Western countries and the United Nations must finish them."—Reuters



# While Failing to Win Afghanistan, Soviets Achieve Success in North

MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan —

Anyone visiting this city of 110,000 people in northern Afghanistan could get the impression that the Soviet Union has already won the war against the Mujahideen.

The claim here contrasts sharply with the situation in major cities farther south — including Kabul, the capital — where residents are daily reminded there is a war on.

Plan roads north of the Hindu Kush Mountains that loom over most of the country have favored the Soviets and the government they installed in Kabul in the war against the Muslim resistance.

The treeless steppes give off rising columns of dust with every passing caravan, giving off parcels in sleepily called as Mazar-e-Sharif and making it hard to move anywhere unnoticed.

The Soviet Union is only a short flight away in its Mi-24 helicopter gunships ideal for attacking Mujahideen convoys, and nearer still in the MIG and Su-26 fighter jets that can streak south from central Asian airbases to hit guerrilla hideouts.

At the same time, the Mujahideen are 40 days' march away from the guns and money they can get through their party offices in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Mazar-e-Sharif is already hooked up to the Soviet electric power grid.

After years of open heavy fighting — and the deaths and a more explosion of local guerrilla commander Zabihullah in late 1984 — the Soviet and Afghan armies appear to have succeeded in pacifying the area in the strategic northern plains.

## A Year of In-Fighting

Mohammed Anwar, who fought under Zabihullah for 5 years but detected to the government forces following his leader's death, and the falling apart of a year of confusion and fighting among rival guerrilla groups.

The Turkmen, Uzbek and Tajik peoples of the northern plains have, however, not been entirely subjugated by the Soviets. According to Mujahideen sources, while Soviet and Kabul government troops generally take a low profile in this area, in neighboring Kunduz province they frequently shoot villages to intimidate the peasants.

Security in the north is vital both for Kabul, which needs the area's farmlands and natural gas, and for Soviet leaders wary of Islamic fundamentalism roiling their southern borders.

The same Turkmen, Uzbek and Tajik people live on both sides of the border. Many families here fled the Bolsheviks in the 1920s when Enver Pasha's "Basmachi" Muslim anti-communists who were the spiritual grandfathers of the Mujahideen, were crushed.

In Tajikistan province to the west, meanwhile, Mujahideen under commander Abdul Qudoos occasionally manage to cut the heavily guarded pipeline that takes natural gas from the vital Jirgatal field to the Soviet Union.

A commander from the province this summer made his first visit to Pakistan since the war began, looking for more powerful weapons to hit the pipeline.

Western diplomats based in Kabul say that Muhammad Shah Masoud, the famed guerrilla commander of the Panjshir Valley in the Hindu Kush, has moved there to unite resistance forces for a renewed anti-Soviet campaign in the area.

## Islam a Threat to Moscow

A major revival of Islamic resistance here would likely be viewed by Moscow as a potential threat to the Soviet Central Asian republics across the border, where underground Sufi groups have kept Islam alive despite the Kremlin's efforts to impose its "scientific" atheism.

During a 3-day visit to Mazar-e-Sharif, a town built around the rich blue-tiled mausoleum where Afghans believe Islam's Ali is buried, security seemed rather light.

In contrast to more threatened areas like Kabul or Jalalabad in the east, the airport has almost no defenses to guard a dozen parked MiG-21 fighters and 12 more trainer jets.

Aircraft fly in normally, rather than in the tight corkscrew descents needed in other cities to avoid rebel anti-aircraft missiles.

Not many soldiers can be seen on the streets.

While Mazar-e-Sharif appeared to be calm during the summer, Kabul was kept constantly on edge, both by the Mujahideen and by communist chief Naibullah.

The former secret police chief, suddenly installed as party leader in May, has dismissed corrupt officials and shaken up cosy bureaucratic relations with blunt demands for "action, action, action."

What Kabul has been getting, though, is rockets, rockets and more rockets as Mujahideen hammered away at Soviet and Afghan army bases on the edge of the capital after the 10 p.m. curfew.

If Kabul's residents did not hear the rockets slamming in, there was always the army's outgoing artillery booms or the whoosh and flash of its BM-21 multiple rocket launchers to remind them that the 7-year-old war was near.

The tough talk from Naibullah and the noisy nights marked a change for Kabul, which had become used to the banner style of former party chief Babrak Karmal and enjoyed relative calm last winter.

Naibullah, a burly man just turned 40 whom Karmal has nicknamed "the Ox," has undermined some political rivals and warned four Cabinet ministers they could lose their jobs if they failed to pass more than one corporate-style quarterly reviews.

Although — clearly inspired by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's efficiency drive — Naibullah has broached formerly taboo subjects such as corruption, misuse of Soviet aid and army desertions, he has been wary of alienating the old guard.

As a result of Naibullah's determined efforts to build up the army, Western diplomats now believe troop strength may have increased from about 40,000 to well over 50,000. Every few days, soldiers comb Kabul's streets looking for first dodgers to catch as corruption, misuse of Soviet aid and army desertions, he has been wary of alienating the old guard.

But envoys who saw troops lounging at Kabul's golf course rather than attacking Mujahideen in nearby Paktia during September say they doubt that the army's fighting spirit has grown with its numbers.

## Summer's Battles Among Worst

Nevertheless, judging by the large fleets of helicopters and military vehicles rushing out to the Paghman mountains from where the resistance fires its rockets, diplomats said this summer's battles there were some of the closest and toughest in years.

The nighttime curfew starts with the rumbling of armored personnel carriers taking up positions and the barking of stray dogs frightened by large army parades. Troops fire tear gas bullets or sets of up to 12 parachute flares that seem to hang forever in the night sky, casting an eerie orange glow over parts of the city.

While many Mujahideen rockets can be heard only in the districts where they land, of helicopters and military vehicles rushing out to the Paghman mountains from where the resistance fires its rockets, diplomats said this summer's battles there were some of the closest and toughest in years.

What Mujahideen rockets can be heard only in the districts where they land, of helicopters and military vehicles rushing out to the Paghman mountains from where the resistance fires its rockets, diplomats said this summer's battles there were some of the closest and toughest in years.

An office worker living near the destroyed Soviet depot said Kabul's felt more worried but helpless about the war they try to forget. "If the Mujahideen don't sleep, we can't sleep either."

From Combined Dispatches

# Alliance of Mujahids reject elections plan

PESHAWAR, Oct. 14: The seven-party Alliance of Afghan Mujahideen have outrightly rejected the suggestion of their participation in what they term, so-called elections and thereby in a regime run under the dictates of the Soviet Union. The Alliance stands for a settlement based on four-point resolutions passed by the United Nations and Islamic Conference by overwhelming votes.

Addressing a hurriedly called Press conference which was represented by four out of seven component party heads, Prof. Sibghatullah Mujaddidi, the current spokesman of the Alliance, admitted that there had some coldness drifted in the Alliance's ranks following the U.S. tour of four party heads and meeting with President Reagan. But he hoped for the greater cause for which we stand, our brethren would sort out their differences within the Alliance's platform.

He condemned what he called the impractical and intended to serve

the Soviet colonial interests the plans to resettle people from the eastern border zone (bordering with Pakistan) to the western side of the country. Any attempt in this direction, he pointed out, would only result more bloodshed and further miseries for the Afghan people.

Regarding the offer of Dr. Najib for entering into a dialogue with Afghan Mujahideen, Prof. Sibghatullah Mujaddidi ruled out such a dialogue with an unrepresentative regime. The Professor also rejected the false propaganda of Soviet intention of withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan. The fact, he added, was that it was taking back only three to four per cent of its troops currently in our country, to cheat the world opinion. As for the propaganda that with alleviation of Dr. Najib to power the Mujahideen resistance has been weakened, he said it was mere a propaganda aimed at dislodging the Jihad in the country and added that the morale of our Mujahideen was high today than

ever before and they were making joint offensives against the enemy.

## USE OF STINGER

Prof. Sibghatullah Mujaddidi outrightly rejected the speculations that the Mujahideen had received the much publicised U.S. Stinger missiles and these were used in recent ground-to-air attacks by them.

When asked if the Alliance would accept any proposal of Zahir Shah's reinstatements as head of state in case both the superpowers agree to recognise him as Afghanistan ruler, he said the right of accepting or rejecting anyone lie with the people of Afghanistan and it becomes irrelevant at this juncture.

Prof. Mujaddidi declared that no solution of Afghanistan would be acceptable which excludes the conditions laid down in the resolutions of the U.N. and Islamic Conference may it comes from the two head of superpowers now in dialogue.

## SHOORA ELECTION

The Alliance spokesman confirmed that the plan of electing central shoora of the Alliance by direct votes of the people inside Afghanistan and the Afghan Mujahideen was still under consideration and as soon as the proposals by the Special Committee are received, we

shall go ahead.

Giving reasons of absence of prominent Mujahideen leaders from the Press conference, the spokesman said Hikamatyar was in Turkey, Prof. Sayyaf was in Owumji of Pakia province of Jihad and Maulvi Yunas Khalis was in Quetta and they could not attend this. Present on the occasion besides the spokesman who heads Jabbahe Nijate Milli, Syed Ahmad Gilani and Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani, and a deputy of Maulvi Mohammad Nabi Mohammad.—PPI PT 10/15



Prof. Moajiddi

"QUIET WORKER FOR AFGHAN freedom" by Diane Foulds in the Sunday Standard 8/24

WHEN four Afghan resistance leaders went to Washington, little attention was paid to the US group that financed most of their journey.

But the five-year-old organisation, Committee for a Free Afghanistan (CFA), is notable on several counts.

Since its inception in 1981, the group has managed to airlift crates of boots, clothing, food, and medical supplies to the Moslem forces, who call themselves fighters of God, or "mujahideen".

What is intriguing about the operation is that the vast majority of the supplies and services that go into the shipments are obtained free of charge.

What is even more intriguing is that the 28-year-old Columbia University graduate who heads the organisation is not a Moslem, but a Jew.

"I usually tell people I'm from the other tribe," says Henry Kriegel, who replaced Karen McKay as the committee's executive director last month.

Kriegel said he was in Manhattan studying psychology when Afghanistan was invaded by Soviet troops in 1980. At the time, he was active in the "Right to Life" anti-abortion movement and several other interest groups.

It wasn't until four years later, when he attended a lecture by Dr Robert Simon, that Kriegel resolved to commit himself to

helping the Afghan resistance.

Simon, one of the first American doctors to travel inside Afghanistan after the invasion, is chairman of the International Medical Corps (IMC), which has set up medical clinics to treat wounded mujahideen.

"It was the slides that got to me," Kriegel said, "and the fact that no US organisation was doing anything about it at the time that I knew of."

Within a week he had a job working with Afghan refugees in Los Angeles, and a month later he had co-founded "Americans for a Free Afghanistan." He joined the Washington group in 1985.

There are five or six US charities now devoted to helping the Afghan freedom fighters, but the CFA, according to one US official, is the most experienced.

Located only a block from the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, the committee's small office is a jumble of Asian trinkets, colourful photographs, posters, and unmailed envelopes.

On an afternoon last month, two barefoot children scamped about the reception area as volunteers carted recently donated boxes of clothing downstairs for transport to a warehouse.

Kriegel, who could pass for an Afghan with his dark hair and beard, said bringing mujahideen leaders to Washington to speak to US leaders was only one of the organisation's activities.

Others include "Operation Medevac," which brings wounded Afghans requiring specialised care to the United States.

Since 1984, scores of war victims have

received free treatment under the programme in at least eight major US hospitals.

"Operation Plowshares" provides seeds to rural Afghans whose land has been laid waste by war, and there are the shipments: supplies of antiseptics, pain-killers, protein powder, vitamin supplements, surgical tools, food and other aid.

On a US\$300,000 annual budget, Kriegel and the CFA's two other employed staff maintain contacts in Pakistan and throughout the United States, and spend much of their time lobbying the government.

One such lobbying campaign led to the passage of the 1985 McCollum Amendment, which appropriates US\$10 million a year to ship non-lethal aid to Afghan refugees and fly wounded Afghans back.

But his major priority is informing the US public about the suffering of the Afghan people.

Throwing in a few Yiddish words as he spoke, Kriegel explained that his own parents — Polish Jews who came to this country after World War II — were Holocaust survivors.

But his Jewishness has never been an issue within the CFA, he said. In fact, it has worked to his advantage.

"We are going to get Jewish support," he asserts. "The Jewish people say 'never again', but how can they say that when it's already happening in Afghanistan?"

"The Soviets have destroyed virtually all the farmland. It's the systematic destruction of a homeland. The atrocities are almost more gross than the gassing of the Jews." — dpa Features

KABUL: The Chief of General Staff of all Afghan military forces said he did not know when a partial Soviet troop withdrawal announced by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev would take place.

Lieutenant-General Shahnaz Tanai said on Sunday night the pullout of six regiments of Soviet forces here, which Western countries say totals 115,000 men, would be "a major step towards improving the prospects of peace in this region."

He stressed that Moscow would not desert Afghanistan if Moslem rebels kept up attacks while the Kremlin withdrew the regiments — about 7,000 men — that Mr Gorbachev said would go by the end of the year.

But asked about a precise pullout date, Gen Tanai answered: "It is in their (the Russians') military plans. I myself do not know it."

The United States has dismissed as inadequate the plan to withdraw one armoured regiment, two motorised rifle regiments and three anti-aircraft regiments.

It suggested the withdrawal might be a normal troop rotation and the anti-aircraft regiments were not needed anyway as the Western-backed anti-communist guerrillas had no aircraft.

But Gen Tanai, who was only 34 when he took over the Afghan military two years ago, argued the pullout of the anti-aircraft regiments was not a hollow gesture.

"They also perform some ground duties," he said in his office at Darulaman Palace, a grand European-style residence built by King Amanullah in the 1920s which now houses the defence ministry.

One of Moscow's two Kabul military bases is close by and many signs in the palace, a favourite target for rebel rocket attacks, were in Russian.

Asked about *Stingers* and *Blowpipes*, the US- and British-made anti-aircraft missiles Washington is reported to have delivered to the rebels, Gen Tanai said he had no indication the guerrillas had received them.

"We have not yet seen them," he said. "We cannot say whether they are being used or not."

The soft-spoken general laughed off Western media reports quoting Afghan rebels in Peshawar last September as saying he had died in a pitched battle against the guerrillas.

"This is not the first time," he remarked. "I was 'killed' twice before, according to local rumours, but this was the first time it made the international press."

He also played down stern criticisms of the army that communist party leader Najibullah has made in recent months.

The tough-talking Najibullah, an ex-secret police chief who replaced President Babrak Karmal as party leader in May, said the army was not drafting

enough men to keep it at full strength and desertions continued to deplete its ranks.

Gen Tanai said Mr Najibullah only criticised "technical aspects" of the draft, which residents say is enforced by press gangs rounding up young men off the streets, and that actual desertion was low.

The general also said that Mr Najibullah had taken over as commander-in-chief, edging out Mr Karmal who, since he became head of state, should be the supreme commander.

Gen Tanai declined to give figures for desertions or the strength of the Afghan and Soviet armies here. Western countries say the Afghan army has shrunk to about half the 80,000 total it had before Kabul's 1978 communist coup.

Asked about the rebels, Gen Tanai said they still caused Kabul problems along the border with Pakistan and in cities like Kandahar in the south and Herat near the Iranian border, all scenes of heavy fighting this year.

But he said the Afghan army was steadily improving in its fight against the Pakistan-based guerrillas, who call themselves *Mujahideen* (Islamic warriors) but are branded as counter-revolutionaries by Kabul.

"The counter-revolutionaries cannot fight us face to face," he said.

"If Western imperialists and other reactionary countries stopped their interference (i.e. aid to the rebels), I assure you the counter-revolutionaries could not continue fighting even one week."

The United States, Pakistan, China and conservative Arab states like Saudi Arabia are the rebels' main backers.

Asked about reports that Panjshir valley rebel commander Ahmad Shah Masood was uniting rebel groups across northern Afghanistan, the general said: "Masood cannot do anything. He has lost a lot of men and equipment in our operations against him. He does not have the power to unite the counter-revolutionaries and attack us."

Gen Tanai said he knew the subject well because he commanded Afghan forces in the Panjshir valley, a former rebel stronghold north of Kabul, before taking up his present post.

"Masood escaped from us several times," he remarked. "But he is not a real commander. He has just manipulated people against us."

Asked about rumours that women might be sent to fight the rebels, Gen Tanai noted Mr Najibullah had urged all women to join but added the army did not need more women than it already had. — *Reuter*

Lieutenant-General Mikhail Sotskov said the six regiments being withdrawn had served in Afghanistan since 1979, when the Soviet Union intervened, but he declined to say how many Soviet forces would remain.

"About 8,000 are being withdrawn... as many as necessary are staying," he told a news conference for a group of foreign correspondents invited to Kabul by the Afghan authorities.

General Sotskov's figure was the first authoritative Soviet word on how many troops are being pulled out. Western military specialists estimate that the Soviet Union has about 115,000 troops stationed in Afghanistan.

General Sotskov said the soldiers being pulled out were from three anti-aircraft regiments, two infantry regiments and one tank regiment — would return to their normal areas of deployment in two military districts of Soviet central Asia.

"The Afghan army is now able to carry out military operations," General Sotskov said. "The Ministry of the Interior has also grown in forces and is stronger now than before. The tasks which the six Soviet regiments performed will be carried out by Afghan army forces and the Afghan Ministry of the Interior." Soviet troops remaining in Afghanistan would also take over some duties, the general added.

Afghan First Deputy Defence Minister Nabi Azimi denied the pull-out of three air defence regiments was purely symbolic since the Muslim guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed authorities possessed no aircraft.

He said the three regiments had performed several roles, including helping to protect communication lines.

General Sotskov attacked US Defence Secretary Mr Caspar Weinberger for suggesting in Beijing recently that the Soviet Union was sending more forces into Afghanistan to replace the 8,000 troops being withdrawn.

"The aim of this very obvious and open lie is to undermine the peaceful policy of the Soviet Union," he said.

General Sotskov said all Soviet forces could not leave until "outside interference" in Afghan affairs ceased.

General Sotskov declined to say how many Soviet soldiers had been killed since the December 1979 intervention. "Of course we have had losses but not as high as the Western press has said," he commented.

Listing the duties of the Soviet forces, he said they protected important economic targets and highways, escorted transport convoys and helped defend villages against rebel attacks.

From Carol Williams  
in the *IHT* 10/15:

Shah Mohammed Dost, the Afghan foreign minister, stated repeatedly that government forces were in control of the country and paid tribute to what he said was a promise from the Soviet leader, Mikhail S. Gorbachev, that Moscow "will not leave its friends alone."

Lieutenant General Mohammed Nabi Azemi, the first deputy foreign minister, was asked whether the current government could stay in power if the Soviet forces withdrew completely.

"Not only do I think so, but I am sure of it," he replied. "We will keep power. But I must mention we have invited the limited military contingent of the Soviet Union because of the vast undeclared war against us."

Mr Dost said Afghan troops have gained experience over the years from working with Soviet soldiers and are now stronger and more self-sufficient. General Azemi said the gains in military capability allowed Afghanistan and the Soviet Union to agree to remove some of the Soviet forces.

Both Afghan officials said, however, that the rest of the Soviet forces would be needed in Afghanistan as long as foreign support for the rebels continued.

General Sotskov said that the Soviet troops remaining in Afghanistan were needed to protect major industrial and command systems, to patrol highways, escort transport and defend villages.

[Sebatqallah Mojadedi, a leader of an alliance of guerrilla groups, denounced the Soviet withdrawal as a trick to distract world opinion. Reuters reported from Peshawar, Pakistan.

[He called the withdrawal "another trick to deceive the world and divert attention from the actual problem." He said the rebels would continue their seven-year struggle for self-determination for Afghanistan.]

The Middle East August 1986 (Page 2)



Chris Kutschera visited the transit camps of eastern Iran, either directly across the Afghan border or by a long detour through Pakistan. Some are Shiites from Hazarajat, the central, largely Shiite district of Afghanistan, which has been virtually autonomous since 1979. Others are Tajiks and Turkomen from the northern provinces of Afghanistan. Many come from the neighboring province of Herat.

## Forgotten refugees: Afghans in Iran

Since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979, hundreds of thousands of Afghans have sought refuge in Iran, either directly across the Afghan border or by a long detour through Pakistan. Some are Shiites from Hazarajat, the central, largely Shiite district of Afghanistan, which has been virtually autonomous since 1979. Others are Tajiks and Turkomen from the northern provinces of Afghanistan. Many come from the neighboring province of Herat.

No one knows the exact number of the refugees. But the Iranian authorities and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimate there are between 1.5 million and 2 million compared to 2.5 million-3 million in Pakistan.

The refugees are dispersed throughout Iran. According to UNHCR estimates, there are 800,000 in Khorasan province—250,000 in the capital, Mashhad, alone—150,000 each in the provinces of Isfahan, Kerman, Tehran, Fars and Yazd, and 120,000 in Sistan-Baluchistan province. Many are often for low wages, in construction, agriculture, or in factories or small shops.

In 1979 the Iranians created the Council for Afghan Refugees (CAR), which is part of the ministry of the interior. The CAR has grown increasingly alarmed at the growing number of Afghan refugees and at the health and security problems they pose. The council runs a dozen transit camps near the Afghan border. Refugees arriving at the frontier, or found inside Iran without proper papers, are sent to these camps. Only after a medical check-up, and in accordance with local manpower needs, are they given an identity card and allowed to live and work in a specified Iranian city.

### Food and medicine

A few miles from the city of Sabzevar, the atmosphere and quarantine camp is, at first sight, rather grim. It is surrounded by a high barbed-wire fence. But once one goes through the main gate, this impression is quickly forgotten. On each side of the camp the refugees live in solid concrete shelters. In the middle is a large area, with concrete slabs, where tents can be set up if a large number of refugees arrive. The camp has a capacity of 5,000, but there were only 500 refugees when that correspondent visited it in May.

In the center of the camp are administrative buildings, which include a clinic, a pharmacy, food stores, a bakery and a mosque. The refugees are dependent on the Iranians for their weekly ration of food, rice, sugar, tea, meat, potatoes, which seems fairly generous. But, despite the presence of many children in the camp, there is no milk, which is in short supply in Iran.

Often spending several weeks in the camp, the refugees, most of whom are

illiterate, learn to read in Farsi (a language which some Afghans and Iranians have in common)—the women and girls in the morning in the mosque, the men and boys in the afternoon in a neighbouring school.

The refugees' poor health is a major concern of the Iranian authorities. Owing to both the war and the famine in Afghanistan, the refugees often reach Iran in a deplorable condition. Half the refugees arriving in summer suffer from malaria, and tuberculosis is common. Dysentery is endemic in summer, and bronchitis, pneumonia and measles in winter. There are skin diseases and syphilis.

Some of these diseases had virtually disappeared from Iran. Their reintroduction has cost the Tehran government a good deal. \$150 million in combating malaria, and \$30 million to import insecticides, according to one CAR official. Last year, the Iranians managed to halt a cholera epidemic in Shiraz. There have been occasional cases of leprosy. Ordinary cases of malaria, dysentery, skin diseases are sent to Mashhad, and the war wounded to Mashhad, Shiraz and Tehran.

The rate of arrivals varies according to the situation inside Afghanistan. A new campaign of bombing in Herat causes an influx of refugees. Between March 1985 and March 1986, 27,000 refugees passed through Sabzevar camp. But there are no statistics showing how many came directly from Afghanistan and how many were picked up inside Iran without papers.

### Fleeing from war

South of Mashhad is the camp of Bardaskan, which is for men only. About 30,000 men and boys passed through it last year. "At one time, 500 refugees were arriving daily, fleeing the war and the bombing. We didn't know where to put them," says Muhammad Raza Youssefi, the CAR official who runs the camp. But in May there were only 1,200 refugees in Bardaskan.

They have similar stories to tell. Fatima Youssefi, about 20 years old, fled from her village in Hazarajat, with her husband, a married peasant, and 19 other members of the family. They reached the Iranian border after a six-month trek, during which they survived thanks to the work of the men, who spun flax and sold it to buy food. Today, Fatima is a refugee in Sabzevar camp with the other 11 women of the family. They were separated from the men, without being able to explain why.

Gholam Reza, about 40, left a village in Herat province after his wife had been killed and his house destroyed in a bombing raid. With his 14-year-old daughter Zeinab and his two sons, aged seven and nine, he walked to Pakistan. On the way, he says, they were bombed. "There were so many killed and wounded in our caravan of 50 families that one could not distinguish the

bodies of the dead and wounded." Afterwards they walked only at night, until they reached Pakistan and then Mashhad, where he was picked up by the authorities and sent to Sabzevar.

Ibrahim Mahmet, looking 60, had just arrived in Bardaskan. Born in a village in Herat province, he left after the village was destroyed in a bombing raid. "Each bomb dug a huge crater," he recalls. After reaching the Iranian border with his wife and children (nine of them in all) he was separated from his family at Tayyababad transit camp. He is now impatient to get an identity card so that he can go and work in the city.

### In search of a job

Besides those driven from Afghanistan by the war, there are those who come to Iran in search of work. Jalil Ahmad, 19, left his village in Herat because of the war. "When one goes to pick up dry wood," he says, "the Russians arrive and collect the people and the wood, and burn everything."

But he adds that he is a Mujahidin fighter with Jamiat Islami (see box) and that he got four months' leave from his organisation to come to work in Iran. "At the end of my leave," he says, "I will go back to Afghanistan and hand part of the money to the committee for Jamiat Islami and the rest to my family."

Jalil came with a group of 250 Mujahidin who do likewise. After spending a month in Tayyababad camp, Jalil was sent on to Bardaskan. He has a job in a brick factory, but will be able to work for only two months of his four months' leave.

Ali Shamar, 21, a student in agronomy from Ghazni, also left Afghanistan "to make some money and help the Mujahidin." He works legally, in Tehran for seven or eight months in a paint factory, he went to Mashhad, but without getting a permit from the CAR. He was detained during a security check there, and sent to Bardaskan. He now hopes to return to Tehran. His family still lives in their Afghan village, in an area which has suffered repeated bombings. His own village, says Ali, was bombed four or five times.

The Iranian authorities do not make any distinction between refugees fleeing the war and those seeking work. "The Afghans leave their country because of the war," says Hassan Basbasi, chairman of the CAR. "If there is a small number who come to Iran to look for a job, the war is the main cause of their departure. We do not have a phenomenon of emigration provoked by the quest for jobs"—unlike the situation before the war, when there were 600,000 Afghans working in Iran, immigrants who are today considered refugees.

### Plight of the nomads

A nomadic camp is one of the few permanent refugee camps in Iran. It is a

camp for Afghan nomads. Lying in a valley at the foot of high mountains, some 60 kilometers from the Afghan border, it contains 1,200 tents and close to 12,000 people, belonging to eight different tribes.

At first sight, these nomads continue to live in their traditional manner, in big black tents where the women weave carpets. In fact, they have been reduced to misery. They came to Iran three or four years ago with huge herds of 20,000 sheep and camels. Now they are left with only 10,000; the rest were sold or eaten, or died in the war or in the drought which has struck the area during the last three years.

Wholly dependent on the Iranian government, which gives them food and medicine and tries to provide them with some schooling, these nomads wait impatiently for the coveted permit to work in a city.

If their movement within Iran is closely monitored, the nomads remain five to go back and forth between the camp and Afghanistan, which is only a few hours away. Accordingly, for the foreign visitor, Abangaran serves as a window on occupied Afghanistan, revealing the way in which the tribes fight the Soviet army in Herat province—an awe-inspiring which there is little information, owing to its remoteness from Pakistan.

Azm, 50, from Hadramak in Herat, is a member of Hizb Islami, a Sunni guerrilla group. He has come from the Herat area, where his group's mountain positions were bombed by two MIG jets and six helicopter gunships. His group of 40 Mujahidin were armed only with a Doushika (an old, Russian-made machine-gun), Kalashnikov rifles and a single RPG-2 rocket-launcher. They also use home-made mines. "We need missiles," says Azm.

The Mujahidin's meals are frugal: mountain vegetables, dry bread and whatever meat they can get by hunting. "When the fields are burnt by the Russians," says Azm, "there is real famine." He is planning to return to Afghanistan in a few days.

Shir Ahmar comes from Hadramak. He fled the war with 300 armed families. By the time they reached Iran, all his animals had been killed. In Iran, he works as an apprentice at a brick factory, making about 150 terran a day. \$20 is the official rate. When he has some money, he goes back to Afghanistan, where he is a member of Jamiat Islami.

A few weeks ago, Shir Ahmar and his group ambushed a Soviet convoy. Armed with an RPG-7 rocket-launcher, he claims they destroyed a tank and two trucks. Last year, he says, they captured a Soviet soldier called Andria. "He pretended he had changed sides and fought for a few days with us, before running away."

### Clinging to tradition

Fierce fighters in their own country, the Afghan nomads are sometimes difficult for the Iranians to manage. CAR officials often give up any hope of bringing them to accept "progress." For the nomads, school is the place from which their children were taken by the Russians and sent to Moscow. They are reluctant to send their children to Iranian schools, even though boys and girls are taught separately.

Medical treatment is an even bigger problem. Dr Nasrullah Hamzai, an Afghan doctor working for the CAR in Abangaran, describes how he was forbidden by one nomad to put a stethoscope to his wife's chest—and was told to put it to the man's chest instead. "When he needs to give a





woman an upstart, he has to cut a small hole in her dress with scissors.

To induce the nomads to send their children to school, Iranian officials at Abekhayat are thinking of handing over the school to six young Afghan girls who have studied in the nearby town of Qaen. "In the presence of six young women in Abekhayat would raise as many problems as it solved."

After a long evening spent discussing these problems, an Iranian official said dependently how he can enforce some discipline in the camp. "One has to win the trust of these nomads," answers Dr Hamraz. "And to win their trust one has to bring them services." "But that is exactly what we are doing," says one of the CAR officials, "and to no avail."

There are other problems. Like all immigrants, the Afghans are accused — sometimes justly — of a wide range of crimes including drug trafficking, the kidnapping of women and children, and so on. Faced with the growing number of refugees, some CAR officials wonder if the Iranian government is not creating a time-bomb by accepting them all. "We already have so many problems with them, now that we control them. What will it be like when we no longer control them?" asks one CAR official.

#### Equal treatment?

Meanwhile, despite these problems and the continuing Iraq-Iran war which is putting heavy pressure on the Iranian economy, the Tehran government continues to welcome new Afghan refugees.

The direct cost of this assistance has been high — \$40 million a year, according to Hassan Basiri, the chairman of the CAR. That does not include indirect costs — education, health care and so on. "All Afghan refugees are entitled to all the privileges of Iranian nationality," says Basiri. "They can work, they are allocated coupons to buy food at a cheap price, they send their children to Iranian schools, and they get treated in Iranian hospitals."

In official circles of the Afghan groups see things a little differently. It is true, he says, that Afghan children can go to Iranian schools. But Afghans are not admitted to universities, which are open only to Iranians. Nor do they enjoy the benefits of the Iranian health insurance system, and they have to "renew" it.

Thus is a problem for Mujahidin groups who do not have privileged relations with the Iranian authorities. Groups which have had ambulations have had to take wounded fighters from the border to Mashhad or Tehran. This is both costly and uncomfortable. And no one takes care of families whose breadwinner has been killed in the war.

As far as the situation in the camps is concerned, a leading figure in one Afghan organisation comments, "We are aware of the many problems our compatriots face in the camps: the separation of families, the isolation of the camps, the shortage of food, our compatriots do not get the same allocation as Iranians. And the major problem is the permit to live and work in the camps. We keep our mouths shut, not to make these problems worse. They will last as long as we do not have an independent country of our own."

#### Afghans in Iran

The Middle East August 1986

No less than nine Afghan resistance groups are together in Tehran. In May for a press conference denouncing the UN-sponsored talks in Geneva between Pakistan and Afghanistan. "The Geneva conference is a joke," they declared. "It is true that three million Afghans have taken refuge in Pakistan, but the Afghan Mujahidin will decide their own fate. Pakistan is not our representative."

But the unanimity of the Afghan groups does not go much further. Two of them — Jamiat Islami and Harakat al-Mujahidin al-Islami — are Sunni, while the seven others are Shiite. Their relations with one another, and in some cases with the Iranian regime, can be tense. The more favoured groups have sympathetic offices in downtown Tehran, less favoured

ones have modest offices in the poorer northern suburbs of the city.

● Jamiat Islami is a Sunni group, with a dogmatically independent line. During demonstrations in Tehran on 26 April (the anniversary of the communist coup in Kabul in 1978), Jamiat refused to parade with portraits of Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini.

In relationship with the Iranian authorities is sometimes uneasy. But the Iranians are pragmatic. They know that Jamiat is the main resistance group in western Afghanistan, with an estimated 30,000 Mujahidin fighters in Herat province.

● Among the Afghan fighters in Tehran, the Harakat Islami — not to be confused with the Sunni Harakat Inqilabi Islami — is Jamiat's privileged partner. It was founded in 1978 by Shaikh Asaf Mohseni, a religious leader who studied



Shaikh Asaf Mohseni of Harakat Islami

for 14 years in Najaf, Iraq, with Ayatollah Khomeini — a member one of the highest Shiite authorities.

The group is led by a central council based in Qom and presided over by Mohseni. Inside Afghanistan, there is an "internal higher council", based at Behabad, and led by Seyyed Muhammad Ali, assisted by Ustad Mohebbat, a 32-year-old teacher from Ghazni.

Harakat Islami, according to the French expert Olivier Roy, the only Shiite group actively fighting the Russians, is unlike other Shiite groups, it has some relatively heavy weapons: 60mm and 82mm mortars, BM-12 multiple-rocket launchers, 75mm guns and a single 120mm howitzer in Parwan province, north of Kabul.

It complains that "the Sunni organisations have more money and a telecommunications network, based in Pakistan, to let the world know about their operations." It claims to have carried out a number of important operations in recent months. In Kandahar, in early spring, its forces repelled an Afghan government attack on one of their garrisons, destroying five helicopters and three MIG jets. In Ghazni, in February, it claims to have shot down five Russian and three helicopters. On 22 March, it attacked two military posts in Kabul and blew up a hotel, killing or wounding 300 people.

Don't such operations harm innocent civilians? "It is not important," says Ustad Mohebbat, because the damage suffered by the Russians is much more important. Innocent people, he adds, do not work in such hotels. Shaikh Mohseni has issued a religious decree forbidding work for the government.

If Harakat has good relations with Jamiat — sometimes launching joint operations — its relations with other Shiite groups are polarised. "The Shiite groups are polarised," he says. "The Shiite parties have no front with the Russians," claims Mohebbat, "and are trying to take over liberated areas."

The struggle for power is taking place chiefly in Herat, the central, largely Shiite region of Afghanistan, where the influence of Seyyed Behabehi, a conservative Afghan religious leader, has been almost totally eliminated by the Pasdaran and Nasr.

● Nasr (Victory) is a Shiite group set up in Kabul in 1978, after the communist coup. It was founded by students and

mullahs (including Mullahs Behadi and Resai, who both died in just five years ago).

● But Nasr claims as its "precursor" Muhammad Reza Badi, who was born in Baluchistan, the province of Jamiat. Badi spent 14 years in jail under the Afghan monarch Zahir Shah, and eventually died in uncertain circumstances. He wrote poems in which he advocated a liberal, republican regime, something which does not prevent Nasr from the establishment of a new Islamic regime in Afghanistan.

Represented in Tehran by men like Muhammad Khalili, 36, from Herat, who is a traditionalist, and by Seyyed Hosseini, 38, from Dare Soud, in Samsang province, who studied in Najaf, Iran, Nasr is led by a council of seven members, both religious and secular figures.

Poorly armed with Kalashnikovs and a few machine-guns borrowed from Russian tanks, Nasr is fighting on two fronts — against the Behabehi faction and against the Russians, mainly in the eastern part of the country (Guzar, Bamyan, Behabad and in the Kabul area). But, according to its rivals, Nasr is principally engaged in fighting other Shiite groups — although a recent mediation effort, organised by Ayatollah Montazeri, Khomeini's designated successor, was apparently successful. 40 hours Nasr's political aims are close to those of the Iranian regime. It is nevertheless a political party with its own identity. It was established before Iran's Islamic revolution, and numbers many intellectuals in its ranks.

● Unlike Nasr, Afghan groups such as the Pasdaran Jihad Islami and the Hizbullah are considered straightforward emanations of the Tehran regime. The Hizbullah was established after the Iranian revolution by a dozen Shiite activists living in the Herat area. The most famous of them is known as Kari the one-eyed, a 28-year-old baker's son who studied in a traditional madrasa. After being in jail for a few months, he went to Iran at the beginning of the revolution, then returned to Afghanistan to found the Hizbullah.

His aim was not, he explains, to create another party, "but to launch a popular movement against the Russians, to defend itself directly under the authority of Khomeini, the Afghan Hizbullah is led by a 30-member council and a five-member executive council. It has 10 to 15,000 members but an "external office" in Mashhad.

The programme: to expel the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, and to set up an Islamic regime. One which is linked to Iran? Clearly, yes, but Kari underlines that this aim is not limited to Afghanistan. "A worldwide Islamic power is the best solution."

## More help

The Middle East August 1986

For four years, the Iranian government single-handedly tackled the problems presented by the influx of several hundred thousand Afghan refugees. Even today, the assistance given by the international community is small — compared, for example, to the massive aid Pakistan is receiving.

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In 1985, UNHCR allocated \$11 million for various programmes: infant nutrition, drinking water, fridges for the medical centres, mobile clinics to treat the Afghan nomads, and other projects. This year, the UNHCR budget, which has stabilised at around \$11 million (compared to \$40-45 million in Pakistan), has different priorities: the creation of centres for rural settlement and vocational training

In an effort to limit the influx of refugees into the cities, the Iranian plan to put them in rural settlement centres. Two sites were chosen in Kerman province — one at Abekhayat, the other near Bam. Unfortunately, after the Iranians had completed infrastructural work at Abekhayat, they realised the land on which they were planning 340,000-400,000 refugees belonged to several big corporations.

In the end, only 600 hectares of land was available. So the government decided this would be the site of an agricultural vocational training centre. Two other sites were chosen, one at Abekhayat in Kerman province, the other at Gergan, in Bahuchistan. Here UNHCR is to help build two rural settlement centres, by funding consultancy work, the study of water resources and the acquisition of pumps and building machinery. Since work on these two sites was delayed because of the Afghan's misadventure, not all the funds allocated for 1986 may be used.

UNHCR is also planning to build vocational training centres in Mashhad, Zahedan, Kerman, Ramsang and Bijnard. These should take about 1,200 Afghan trainees. The experiment, if successful, may be repeated elsewhere.

Facing a severe financial crisis, Iran has had to cut the budget of the Council for Afghan Refugees (CAR) by 840,000 to \$20 million. Accordingly, it is anxious to see more help from the international community — provided, says Hassan Basiri, the CAR chairman, it is channelled through UNHCR, the only organisation allowed to operate inside Iran. (A Japanese offer to send a plenipotentiary of medicine was turned down in the end, the Japanese gave half a million dollars towards UNHCR projects.)

The European Community (EEC) sent 4,000 tons of wheat last year, and is sending 8,000 tons this year. West Germany is sending 8,000 tons of rice. Swiss Disaster Relief is delivering 18 prefabricated clinics which will be set up along the border.

Paradoxically, despite the increasing assistance of UNHCR, the Afghan organisations seem unaware of this help. An official of one organisation goes as far as denying that there is any such assistance. "It is an absolute lie," he declares. "We do not receive anything from them. Even our wounded are not taken care of by them."



Muhammad Khalili of Nasr

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UN help began, on a modest scale, in 1983, with a \$2.5 million programme of emergency assistance — tents, blankets, medicines. In 1984 UNHCR allocated \$7.5 million. But it was not until the autumn of that year that Iran accepted the appointment of a permanent UNHCR delegate to expedite the implementation of this programme — and to try to build up a relationship of trust with the Tehran government.

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# L.I. Hospitals Heal Afghans Hurt in Battle

By CLIFFORD D. MAY

Special to The New York Times

MANHASSET, L.I., Sept. 12 — When they were told they were being sent to hospitals on Long Island, in the United States of America, to be treated for crippling injuries suffered in the war against Soviet forces, the five young Afghan guerrillas were made to understand that they faced months of pain and struggle.

More difficult was preparing the youths for a world unlike anything they have known in the past or may know again in the future.

"The cultural differences are tremendous," said Carol Hauptman, the director of community relations for North Shore University Hospital here. "Two of these kids had never seen a bar of soap before. Televisions, telephones, even toilets are basically new to them. They have to go back home after they recover, so we're not to westernize them. But how can you help it?"

## Making Accommodations

Hospital spokesmen say their staffs are making strenuous efforts to respect cultural differences. Whenever possible, nonalcoholic medicines are substituted for those with alcohol as a base, in conformity with Islamic law. Kosher meals are served, because Jewish and Moslem dietary restrictions are similar. Provisions have been made for the patients to face toward Mecca and pray five times a day as required.

"Even being on a coed unit must take them aback," said Shawn Frank, a social worker at the Schneider Children's Hospital of the Long Island Jewish Medical Center, where two of the youths are being treated. "In their country, females are always completely covered and inter-relationships aren't nearly so casual.

"We've done some education with the girls on the unit about not being too forward. Also, they're not used to seeing women in positions of authority."

Other hospital staffers said that nearly everything was unfamiliar to the youths at first. They had no way to know that inside those little cardboard boxes was a glassful of milk. And they had to be shown how to open them.

The Afghan youths were brought to America under a cooperative program begun in 1984. The United States Government pays their transportation costs and the hospitals provide treatment at no cost. Arrangements on Long Island were worked out through the offices of Congressman Robert J. Mrazek, a Democrat from Centerport.

Treatment of the five young guerrillas who arrived last week is complicated by the fact that their injuries occurred months ago and have therefore healed improperly.



Barbara Silvestri, a physical therapist, helping Ahmed Shakaib to exercise his injured leg at North Shore University Hospital. Mr. Shakaib is one of five Afghan guerrillas being treated at hospitals on Long Island. At left is Habibullah Mayor, an interpreter.

The New York Times/Baron Silverman

Even so, these youths, like about 100 others selected for the program so far and sent to hospitals elsewhere in the country, are among the luckier ones: Printed guidelines from a Geneva-based refugee organization, the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration, exclude the thousands with "no chance for successful treatment."

The guidelines also note that "there is a great deal of concern among Afghan families regarding possible attempts to 'westernize' and 'Christianize' their family members sent here for treatment." The guidelines emphasize, "No overtures along these lines can be allowed."

Hospital staffers say there is sometimes a fine line between westernizing and adapting. Already, most of the youths are enjoying television, telephones, elevators and even some computer games.

## 'A Lot of Learning'

That is not to say that their values are necessarily being altered. "The nurses go through magazines with them," said Rosalie Kershaw, a spokeswoman for Long Island Jewish Medical Center. "But the other day when one nurse came to an ad showing a girl in a swimsuit, the boy shook his head and said, 'no, no,' and he immediately turned the page."

Language, too, provides insulation. The youths mostly talk among themselves and to members of the local Afghan community who come to visit.

When interpreters are not available, "we do charades to communicate," said Janine Sciarone, a registered nurse at North Shore. "And they've already learned important words, like 'pain' and 'thirsty.'"

A North Shore spokesman, Daniel M. Rosett, said: "A lot of learning is taking place on both sides. These kids have gone through things we can't even imagine."

The most important Western innovations the youths are encountering here, of course, are the sophisticated medical technologies unavailable in Af-

ghanistan, where, relief workers say, medical care has deteriorated sharply in the years since the 1979 Soviet military intervention, or in Pakistan, where many wounded guerrillas are sent for initial treatment.

When Mohammed Nazir — who is 18 years old, though he looks younger and acts older — first arrived at North Shore, he could hardly move his left arm, which had been fractured by bomb fragments during a battle north of Kabul 17 months ago.

"Worse than that," said Dr. Lewis B. Lane, an orthopedic surgeon, "the shrapnel wiped out two of three nerves."

To give Mr. Nazir back the use of his hand, Dr. Lane spent four hours surgically removing and reattaching tendons.

Now, Mr. Nazir can straighten his fingers, but only by trying to bend his middle finger. Similarly, "when his brain says to twist the hand palm down, his wrist comes up," Dr. Lane said. "It's as if you attached the crankshaft of your car to the window so that when you turned the key the window would roll down. But he's young enough to learn the transfers."

The most seriously injured of the group is Sherin Khan, 15, who is now being cared for at Schneider Children's Hospital in New Hyde Park.

"He lost the lower half of his face in a bomb blast," Ms. Kershaw said. "He'll need repeated surgery, at least a year of work."

The techniques being used, she said, are new, involving the grafting through microsurgery of entire bone, muscle and blood-vessel systems from the hip — "essentially, sculpting a section of hip into part of a face."

After their hospital stay is completed, the youths are to be placed with Afghan immigrant families in New York for further rest and recuperation. Mr. Nazir said he would like to get some watches and cameras as presents for friends back home. Other than that, he could think of nothing he hoped to see or do while in the United States.

"I need to get back as soon as possible," he said. "When my hand is better, I must return to the war."

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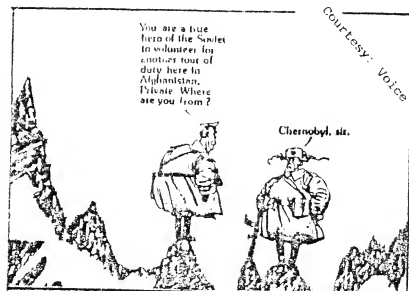
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## TRAINING TAPE FOR ASYLUM LAWYERS

A videotape on conditions in Afghanistan has been prepared by the LAWYERS COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, 36 West 44th St., New York, NY 10036. The  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch VHS 60-minute tape is \$50 (\$30 for non-profit organizations) & is one of a series of training tapes on Lawyering Tasks in Asylum Cases prepared by the Committee.



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# EVENTS

The annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Assn. (MESA) will take place at the Boston Sheraton Hotel from Nov. 20-23. The FORUM will have a booth; Luke Powell will show 32 of his photos of Afghanistan; Nazif Shahrani will present a paper on "The Social Base of Islamic Movements in Afghanistan"; there will be a workshop on the prospects for a negotiated settlement in Afghanistan with Eden Naby, S. Hadi Raza Ali, Ralph Magnus, Siddiq Noorzooy & Charles Dunbar taking part; Jan-heeren Grevenmeyer will give a paper "The Wild Bunch: The Revolt of Bach-ehye Saqau, 1929"; Afghanistan: Prospects for Survival is the title of the panel in which Alam Payind, Grant Farr, John Lorentz & John Merriam will present papers.

FOLK & POPULAR MUSIC OF AFGHANISTAN, a concert by Wali Taranasaz, Chetram Sahni & Mujadeddi, will be presented at the Washington Square Church, 135 West 4th Street, NYC, on Nov. 22 at 8 p.m. Admission is \$10. (Sponsored by the World Music Institute, 155 West 72nd St., Suite 706, NY 10023. 212 -362-3366 or 212-362-0290.)

The Assn. for Asian Studies Mid-Atlantic Region annual conference will be held at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware from 10/31 - 11/2. Shakel Ahmed of the Univ. of Maryland will give a paper on "Afghanistan - Czarist Policy & the Brezhnev Doctrine." There will also be a panel on "The Alexander Story in the Persian & Indo/Muslim Context" with William Hanaway, Wilma Heston, Frances Pritchett, Peter Gaeffke & Margaret Mills participating.

CEREDAF (Centre Recherches & D'Etudes Documentaires sur l'Afghanistan) will hold a colloquium from 11/27 - 11/31 on the last 30 years of Afghan history. Speakers will include French, Swiss, English, German, American, Pakistani & Afghan specialists. Information is available from CEREDAF, 8, rue Christine, 75006 Paris. The proceedings will be published early in 1987.

THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE SOVIET PRESENCE IN AFGHANISTAN was the topic of an ORBIS-sponsored conference in Arlington, VA on 9/25-26. Participants included Robert Canfield, Michael Fischer, Muriel Atkin, Daniel Matuszewski, Louis Dupree, Leslie Dienes, John Shroder, Victor Mote, Robert Taffe, Milan Hauner, Richard Pipes, Marvin Zonis, R.K. Ramazani, Maj. Joseph Collins, Alexei Alexiev & Alvin Rubinstein.

Both Nancy & Louis Dupree participated in the fall meeting of the Southeast Regional Middle East & Islamic Studies Seminar from 9/19-21 in Valle Crucis, NC, discussing the current situation & approaches to teaching about Afghanistan.

The "Mois de la Photo" exhibition at the Grand Palais in Paris from 11/7 - 29



will feature color photos by Julio Donoso who photographed refugees in Pakistan in a makeshift studio with his Pentax camera, a Balcar flash & Ektachrome.

AFGHANISTAN WEEK IN LYSS (Switzerland), November 5 - 12, sponsored by various relief organizations, at the Hotel Weisses Kreuz, Marktplatz 15, Lyss. P. Bucherer will moderate a panel on the effect of the war on Afghan culture. Dr. Muller will speak on his medical experiences in Afghanistan. Mr. Krattli will relate his experiences in Afghanistan & Dr. Carrel will speak on the Soviet presence in Afghanistan. There will be exhibits, video cassettes along with the discussions. For information, contact Hans Biederman, Oberdorf 14, 3273 Kappelen, Switzerland. (032 82 12 62.)



Excerpts from Reports from Kunduz  
sent by Commander Moh'd Arif &  
translated by Jamil Ranzoor:

An attack was launched on a DRA convoy headed from Kunduz to Badakhshan on 7/1. The mujahideen used RPG 7 82mm guns & small machine guns. Due to heavy air & ground bombardments on neighboring villages, many civilians were martyred as were 22 mujahideen.

On 7/16, Soviet & DRA forces, aided by jet fighters & helicopter gunships, attacked the Ishkamesh subdivision of Takhar which has been in mujahideen hands since 1979. Due to mujahideen unity & the direct participation of Ahmad Shah Massoud, the Panjshir Valley commander, the Russian & DRA forces left heavy losses behind: 2 jet fighters & 8 gunships were shot down; 150 Soviet & Karmal soldiers were killed & several wounded; many civilians were martyred & crops & cattle were destroyed.

Mujahideen attacked & completely destroyed a new DRA military post at Tapa-i-Ghulam Sakhi Khan in the Zar Kharid district on 7/25.

On 8/6, the Ferkhar subdivision of Takhar was attacked by mujahideen under Masoud's leadership. They used B-12 & ground-to-ground missiles for the first time in this region. Clashes continued for 10 days & Ferkhar, in DRA hands since 1983, was completely liberated by 8/16. Ferkhar, located in the southeast part of Takhar central town, has an area of 1,459 sq. km. & a population of 15,585. It is 1,160

meters above sea level.

On 8/13, an attack was launched by mujahideen on DRA military posts on the road from Khan Abad to Takhar. Four of the posts were destroyed; 5 Parchamis were captured alive; 1 Russian jeep was seized; 2 mujahideen were martyred.

A communist attack took place in the Archi subdivision on 8/26 but due to prior knowledge of the attack the mujahideen resisted strongly. The 24-hour fighting resulted in the destruction of 4 tanks & 2 armored vehicles, & the death of 13 DRA & 9 Russian soldiers.

Martyred were 16 mujahideen including a commander named Faizurrahman.

And from Nangarhar

An undated report, postmarked 10/7, from mujahideen in Nangarhar states that mujahideen of Hezbi-Islami Afghanistan, led by Cdr. Eng. Abdul Ghafar, were given ground-to-air missiles for the first time. The report states that a few days ago they attacked Jalalabad airport & shot down 3 helicopters. They shot down another one in the Kashkoot region. The mujahideen say they have not seen any more planes flying from Russian bases because the Soviets know the planes will be shot down.

(transl. by Jamil Ranzoor)



Cdr. Moh'd Arif



A group of mujahideen in Kunduz

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

CHARLES MASSON of AFGHANISTAN by Sir Gordon Whitteridge, cited in the last FORUM, is available in the US from Aris & Phillips Ltd., 171 First Ave., Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716-1289. The price of the 200pp. book, which has 12 Photos (4 in color), maps & a bibliography, is \$35.

"Afghan Resistance & the Problem of Unity" by Abdul Rashid in STRATEGIC REVIEW, the US Strategic Journal, Vol. 14, #3, Summer 1986.

AFGHANISTAN TRIBUNE is the German-language publication of the Federation of Afghans & Afghan Students Abroad, P.O. Box 210920, D-7500 Karlsruhe 21, West Germany. The organization also publishes a journal in Persian & Pashtu.

AFGHANISTAN: THE REVOLUTION CONTINUES, edited by Makhmud Baryalai, Moscow, Planeta Publishers, 1984. 240 pp. \$13.00. Published to mark the 20th anniversary of the PDPA.

COURRIER, the monthly UNESCO publication, is now being published in Pashtu, according to Bakhtar. The Pashtu name is Astazi.

Haqiqat-e-Sarbaz is the organ of the Central Committee of the Defense Ministry of the DRA.

THE PRESENT SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN, the text of a paper delivered by Moh'd Es-haq at a conference at Villa-nova Univ held last May, has been published by the Political Office of Jami'at Islami Afghanistan, P.O. Box 264, Peshawar, Pakistan.

"Barrage & Counterbarrage" by Robert Schultheis appeared in TIME on Oct. 6.

"Afghanistan 1924: Crisis After Crisis, Internal & External" by Louis Dupree in ESCALATION & INTERVENTION, MULTILATERAL SECURITY & ITS ALTER-NATIVES, Mansell Publishing Ltd., London & Westview Press, Boulder, 1986.

"Leur Ame Se Lit Sur Leur Visage" by Guy Sorman with splendid photographs by Julio Donoso in LE FIGARO-MAGAZINE, 9/20/86.

THE FRONTIER REVIEW promises to be a quarterly review of the refugee situation in Pakistan & events inside Afghanistan. The Review will be published by a news agency based in Peshawar and is available from P.O. Box 434, Palo Alto, CA 94302, for \$35/ year.

ARZT BEIDEN VERGESSENEN IN AFGHANISTAN by Dr. Karl Viktor Freigang, promultis-Verlagsbuchhandlung, Semmelweisstr. 8, 8033 Planegg, Switzerland. DM 14,80.

AFGHANISTAN IN THE WORLD PRESS, a monthly published by the Afghan Jihad Works Translation Centre, G.P.O. Box 417, Peshawar, carries translations of articles from the Western press, book reviews, etc., in Dari & Pashto for distribution among the mujahideen. Annual subscription is \$10. (Bank acct # 649, Habib Bank, Cantt. Branch, Peshawar.)

MARXIST REGIMES: POLITICS, ECONOMICS & SOCIETY, Lynne Rienner Publishers, 948 North Street, Suite 8, Boulder, CO 80302, has a chapter on Afghanistan by Bhabani Sen Gupta.

Afghanistan also appears in REFUGEES. SEARCH FOR A HAVEN by Judith Bentley, published by Julian Messner, Simon & Schuster Group, Inc., 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020. 159pp.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN: HIGH JIRGAH OF FRONTIER TRIBES, Kabul 9/85, Gov't Printing Office. 86 pp., & AFGHANISTAN WANTS PEACE: Proposals of DRA for Normalization of the Situation Around Afghanistan, Kabul, Gov't Printing Press. 4 pp., & AFGHANISTAN: MULTIFACETED REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS, n.d., Gov't Printing Press, Kabul. 137 pp.

AFGHAN RESISTANCE: The Politics of Survival, edited by Grant Farr & John Mirriam, Westview Press, Boulder, CO 80301.

Contents: Preface—Habibullah Tegey. Introduction—G. M. Farr and J. G. Merriam. Afghan Nationalism: The Means to Survival?—Sultan A. Aziz. Tribal Ethos and the Afghan Jihad: The Poetry of the Resistance—David Busby Edwards. Arms Shipments to the Afghan Resistance—J. G. Merriam. Afghan Refugee Women and Their Struggle for Survival—Kathleen Howard-Merriam. The New Afghan Middle Class as Refugees and Insurgents—G. M. Farr. Rationales for the Movement of Afghan Refugees to Peshawar, Pakistan—Kerry M. Connor. Humanitarian Response to an Inhuman Strategy—Ralph H. Magnus.

MOTHER OF EXILES: REFUGEES IMPRISONED IN THE UNITED STATES, Lawyers Committee on Human Rights, 36 West 44th St., New York, NY 10036. 1986. 77 pp., \$8. Photographs & testimonies of refugees imprisoned in the US, including Afghans.

#### Resistance literature:

FARYAD-E SANGAR: SURUD- E YA'QUBI (Cry from the Fortress: Songs of Ya'qubi) by Ya'qubi, Peshawar(?), Jami'at-e Islami-ye Afghanistan: Bakhsh-e Farhangi Nemayanda-ye Panjshir, 1363 (1984). 94 pp.

GULBANG-E RAHA'I (The Cry of Liberation), Tehran(?), 1365 (1986). 191 pp. ASHK-E KHORASAN (Tears of Khorasan), 1361, 95 pp. & PASUKH BE NAMA-YE USTAD (Response to the letter of the Master), 1361, 12 pp. & SUGWARAN: MAJMU' A-YE CHAND DASTAN (The Mourners: A Collection of Some Stories), 1362, 87 pp. by Sayyid Makhdum Rahin.

LECTURE ON HALAL (Lawful) & HARAM (Unlawful) by Sibghatullah Al-Mojadeddi, Peshawar (?), ANLF (?), 1985. 49 pp.

"Soviet Net Closes in on Afghan Resistance" by Yossef Bodansky in JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 2 August.

The July-August MIDDLE EAST REPORT has several articles about Afghanistan: "Moscow's Kabul Campaign" by Jonathan Steele (first printed in The Guardian, London, 3/15-17/86); "The CIA in Afghanistan: 'The Good War'" by Joe Stork & "Pakistan & the Central Command" by Jamal Rashid.

THE CANDIDATES BIBLICAL SCOREBOARD, a publication of the Biblical News Service/Christian Voice (P.O. Box 10428, Costa Mesa, CA 92627), "issued at regular intervals," reports that the RAMBO (Restore a More Benevolent Order) Coalition reported that in 1984, of Afghan refugees applying for asylum in the US, 80% were denied asylum.

AL NOOR (Light) is the publication of Hezb-e-Islami Afghanistan (Yunis Khalis), P.O. Box 454 - 466, Peshawar, Pakistan.

#### REUNION

The west coast reunion of friends who attended the American Int'l School of Kabul during the 60s & 70s was held 8/16-17 in Los Angeles. About 30 Kabulites were present plus their spouses, children & friends, and the atmosphere was quite emotional considering the fact that we hadn't seen each other in 12 or 13 years. Addresses were exchanged & friendships renewed. What was most amazing was that none of us had really changed at all. When we put on our AISK T-shirts, it was as if we were back in Kabul.

While enjoying delicious Afghan food, we reminisced about our high school days: the Afghan Culture & Farsi classes, the basketball team beating Islamabad but losing to Karachi at the Spring Convention, the class trips to Ajar Valley, Bamiyan & Band-i-amiir, the Junior-Senior Prom at the Intercontinental Hotel.

We also spoke of our friends who have returned to Afghanistan & Pakistan to provide medical care for the maimed & mutilated Afghan women, children & men. We wondered about our many Afghan friends still there & how we could help them.

The east coast reunion will be held November in McLean, Virginia & 300 people are expected. We're looking forward to seeing many of our teachers there. This reunion will again bring out the best in memories of growing up in Afghanistan, but also the sad speculations of what is happening to our Afghan friends today. Nevertheless, the reuniting of AISK friends reinforced our appreciation of a special privilege that we all shared - living in Afghanistan when it was a free & peaceful country.

Molly Alexander AISK 1971-74  
Dave Fliehr AISK Class of 1974  
Los Angeles



# ITEMS FROM BAKHTAR

Dubaitis or folk couplets are the most magnificent part of the oral literature of the people of Afghanistan. They include a wide range of songs, couplets, hymns & other rhythmical verses, but have no certain authors. They are creations of total imagination of the people & preserved in people's minds. Dubaitis came to us along with written literature through generations. Dubaitis reflect thoughts, traditions, emotions & sentiments of the people or, to be more precise, they embrace the precise features of their times & place. They have mostly simple language & characteristically rhetorical structure, intricate terms, words; artificiality could not be noticed in them. Distiches (sic) narrate the material & spiritual life & fate of the people in hard as well as glorious days of the homeland. They evoke tender feelings in young & old because of their appeal to moral & ethical values.

Inhuman & cruel deeds of despotic rulers & lords, suffering, failure in love are extensively the subject of dubaitis. Dubaities are recited & sung by people, folk singers & bards in villages & towns inhabited by the Dari-speaking population. Dubaitis are called "falak" in Takhar Province & "songerd" in Paktia. A young villager who has fallen in love wails in the following distich:

I have neglected to read & write.

The passion of your love dissipated me.

I've not felt any kindness of my day or night,

That's why I clamor & wail.

A girl recited the following distich to express her sorrow at the departure of her lover:

In such evening of the miserable,

I'm waiting to see the face of my sweetheart.

Again, about her lover:

O! How vast are thou Shamali Jan.

On your heights stands my sweetheart.

Kabul, the capital of the country, is mentioned & extolled in numerous Dubaitis. We present one of them here:

What a celestial wealth that Kabul has,

What a marvelous khamja safa (palace) that Kabul has,

I would sacrifice myself to its Ashkan & Arifan,

What shir bachas (lion's cubs) that Kabul has.

There are hundreds of such pearls in our folk literature which require compilation. [BIA 9/16]

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A report from Jaujan: Mesrabad, a village with a proud name known all over Afghanistan, is a model of the new life. Travelling the alleys & narrow passageways, we reached the office of the primary party organization. The office is decorated with red banners & revolutionary slogans... The features of Mesrabad village which I visited four years ago have thoroughly changed... Concrete structures, tractors, combine (sic) & the office of the primary party organization can be observed... It is a village completely changed... An agricultural cooperative has 436 members & works 5,864 jiribs (3 jiribs = 1 hectare) of land... cultivated by 12 brigades...

We entered the fort of the village where the stirring of the new life can be observed. The literacy class had commenced; the women are enthusiastically learning literacy. The men are busy at work during the day & learn at night. Here we interviewed Nasir Khal, a member of the DRA RC & a commander of the women's defense group. She said, "The bandits many times attacked our village & the village hero sacrifices but we defended with all our might life & peace so that the counter-revolutionary elements are not able to disturb any more our peaceful life." Leaving the fort, on the way, at last two beautiful & modern buildings in white attracted our attention. One is the new school of Mesrabad & the other the building of an agricultural cooperative which is being built at a cost of Af. 1.1m from the state budget. The construction of a godown, conference hall, office & store of the cooperative has already been completed. [BIA 9/13]

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The newly set up executive committees of people's representatives discussed the working plan of the committees in their sessions held in different provinces in the country. Creation of executive committees is the result of the elections of people's representatives to the local organs of state power & administration in the districts, sub-districts

& villages of the country. The Afghan people have got the opportunity to take their destiny on their hands through forming local jirgahs & the creation of executive committees. The main responsibility of the executive committees, which have been set up wherever elections have taken place, is to take care of people's needs & the socio-economic growth of concerned localities. The people's representatives have their seats in the executive committees of villages & up to the provincial ones. The council of people's representatives has full authority in conducting state affairs. With the completion of elections..., people's councils & their executive committees have been created all over the country.

[BIA 9/16]

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BBC has recently published distorted propaganda about the distribution of land to the peasants of populated provinces & on the interviews granted by Abdul Ghaifar Lakmal, Min. of Agriculture & Land Reform of the DRA to a Reuters reporter. The Minister, in his interview..., said: "I had earlier explained... that the government of the DRA will distribute land for the landless peasants living in the populated provinces with a land shortage taking into consideration the socio-economic, cultural & traditional conditions of the people. If these peasants want to live or receive land individually or collectively in another area, they can contact the gov't about it. The state of the DRA, taking into account the objective possibilities will help them. Certainly the distribution of land to such peasants & their settlement are not carried out under any programs & will take place voluntarily upon their own request. These are in fact what have been said. But the mendacious apparatus of BBC as usual has even distorted shamelessly this approach of the government..."

I am a party & state responsible person & as required by my duty I am fully aware of the water & land reforms in my country & what I responsibly say is based on the facts & data. Therefore, the release of any false material from my tongue reveal the mendacious & counter-fact essence of the mass media such as the BBC. The West claims that their journalists are not allowed to visit Afghanistan. This is a mere lie. Right now there are 7 Western journalists from different countries such as Italy, France, Reuter & others with whom I have made interviews & who have published my words in a distorted form through BBC. Some of these foreign journalists have visited the provinces of Kandahar & Balkh. About 100 Western journalists annually visit our country. Such an impudent approach which have been adopted by BBC vis-a-vis my interview is a manifestation of the fact that the Western mass media are releasing information not for making the people aware of the fact but for concealing the facts about Afghanistan. [BIA 9/11]

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On the medical treatment of the injured Afghan counter-revolutionaries in the clinics of Los Angeles, a political observer o Bakhtar writes: These elements are among the counter-revolutionaries who are hired by the CIA for the continuation of the imperialistic undeclared war against the DRA & for sowing murder & destruction in the country. After their ignominious defeat they are once again used by the Western mass media as a means of poisonous anti-Afghan & anti-USSR propaganda. The US press claims as if the DRA does not permit to int'l organizations who want to render medical assistance to the people of Afghanistan. This impudent allegation is only levelled for the justification of the imperialistic undeclared war... It is a recognized fact that any organization or state that wants to help the people of Afghanistan should not make use of illegal & underground channels. On the contrary, their assistance should be rendered through open channels & with the agreement of the state of the DRA. It is noteworthy that the permanent office of the WHO exists in Afghanistan & the foreign medical aids are rendered to the people of Afghanistan through this organization. The fruitful cooperation of other UN organs to the DRA are continuing with success... The real humanistic assistance of the socialist countries, headed by the USSR, & other friendly countries such as the Republic of India, are noteworthy. Under the conditions that Afghanistan is subjected to the imperialistic undeclared war, & facing abundant calamities, hundreds of USSR physicians & those of other friendly countries are engaged in medical treatment of the afflicted Afghan people in different medical institutions of the

country. The people & state of the DRA never accept the imperialistic covert & hostile assistance which are rendered in exchange of collaboration with the sinister designs of imperialism... All legitimate & honorable ways of rendering humanistic assistance to the people of Afghanistan are open. The Reagan Administration is asked not to train counter-revolutionaries for fratricide, & not to put the most advanced weapons at their disposal & this would be the best humanitarian help to the people of Afghanistan.

[BIA 9/6]

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The reactionary rulers of Iran, in order to realize their ominous goals, have drawn great majority of Afghans residing in Iran into the military camps under the supervision of Pasaderan army & the ring-leaders of Afghan mercenary bands... Life in these camps is unbearable. Mahdavi Kanny, ex-Minister of Interior of Iran, once gave the following justification about the arbitrary recruitment of Afghan fugitives in the military camps of Iran: "Just like in Pakistan, the Afghan refugees should be kept close to the border so they wouldn't cause any trouble for our society & be put in the service of the liberation movement..."

(The Organization of Immigrants says the Iranian camps are run by the "Committees of Export of Revolution" which consist of representatives of Iran & Pakistan gov'ts. These "Committees" are set to coordinate criminal interventions of the two above regimes in the internal affairs of Afghanistan & ensure their unity of actions in the undeclared war against revolutionary Afghanistan. [BIA 8/4])

The Afghan fugitives, who are forcibly sent by the reactionary regime of Iran to the Iran-Iraq war fronts, have staged demonstrations in Zabul & Zahedan cities of Iran, reports reaching here say... The Afghan fugitives are forcibly sent to the Iran-Iraq war front as well as to the undeclared war against the DRA. Those who oppose the order of the Iranian regime are imprisoned. After torture & humiliation they are transferred close to the Iran-Pakistan borders & are left in the burning deserts without food, drinking water & commodities. [BIA 8/10]

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Constitution: As far as the rights & obligations of the citizens are concerned, extensive guarantees have been anticipated in the draft of the new constitution. The right to live, the right to work & education, the right to participate in the administration of state affairs, the right to establish social & political organizations, the right for accommodation & security, & expression, & prohibition of compulsory work are instances which can be cited here. The state is supporting the right of marriage, households, child & mother care & will also take care of the young generation. [BIA 8/4]

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The people of Afghanistan are ethnically different as a result of unbalanced regional evolution (according to Sulaiman Laeq, Min. of Tribes & Nationalities). The level of compactness of local ethnic groups has risen in those lands & provinces where the monetary & commodity transactions have further developed. A great majority of Tajik nationality have concentrated in the cities & suburbs. They are having close economic relations with one another. They are possessing an ancient culture & a single language. The Tajiks have lost their tribal structures long ago but they have preserved the cultural differences acquired by them from their living areas.

However, there exist much differences among the urban & rural Pushtoons inhabiting in the north & west as well as among rural Pushtoons & nomads. Eastern & southeastern Pushtoons who are the inhabitants of mountainous regions have separate characteristics. Hazaras are more compact in terms of a united intrinsic ethnic group. Uzbeks, Turkmen, Pashais, Arabs, Nooristans & others are placed at a lower ethnic group. In the densely populated areas, they are less developed socially, economically & culturally. The culture, language & traditions of the national minorities were subjected to gradual elimination prior to the April Revolution but the Revolution has given them a new lease on life. [BIA 7/28]

## DRA Delegates to the 41st UN General Assembly:

H.E. Shah Mohammad Dost  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Head of the Delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan

H.E. Mr. M. Farid Zarif  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
Deputy Head of the Delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan

Dr. Ahmad Tawfiq Mukhtar-zadah  
Director of the International Economic and Financial Relations  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Enayatullah Nabiul  
Director of the Department of International Conferences  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. M. Ebrahim Nengrahaay  
First Secretary  
Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations

### Alternates

Mr. Ali Ahmad Joushan  
Second Secretary  
Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations

Mr. Saved Kamaluddin  
Second Secretary  
Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations

Mr. Mohaaddin Taeb  
Second Secretary  
Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations.



BUZKASHI - Extracted from Bakhtar 9/22

The state has worked out all-round programs to develop various national sports including buzkashi. As an ancient sport it was played in northern Afghanistan. "With the passage of time, buzkashi grew into a habit..." The training of the horses is very important. "The resting & feeding of the horses are carried out with serious attention... As the counter-revolutionaries inflicted heavy damages to the national economy, they also damaged this ancient sport & killed or stole buzkashi horses & deceived their chapandazes [horsemen]." Some well-known buzkashi teams, however, are supported by the DRA.

# HIGH OVER HINDUKUSH

KABUL (BIA)—Pilot Habibullah was called to the commanding centre and told by the commander of the unit: "Comrade Habibullah, you should take off, though the weather is not good according to the meteorological reports. The flight is important. It has to be carried out. You can take it. The plane should be landed here at this airport as the map is not." After getting permission of the centre, the plane took off and gained the necessary altitude.

The plane flew over the mountains enveloped in thick clouds. The pilot decided to fly over the clouds. When the plane arrived over the designated airport, he was told by the air controller that it was heavily raining and the wind was very strong. Habibullah landed at the map and asked the navigator of the plane, First Lieutenant Zekria to find a direction without lightning. The navigator made the direction for landing with the help of radar. But it was only slightly possible to see the

airport from the air. Habibullah could establish the situation of the plane in the air by radar of the airport. The plane was fast losing altitude and it was getting more dangerous. But Habibullah was an experienced pilot and had firmly decided to land the plane. No one could see the plane, though its roar could be heard increasingly. And then Habibullah came through the clouds conducting a manoeuvre and skillfully landed the plane.

Those on the ground were wondering who was the pilot. After the engines of the plane were switched off, a little thin man of medium height got out of the cockpit. Habibullah, all said in unison! In fact, Habibullah could conduct such difficult flights. The plane was waited for about half an hour, while the clouds were thickening and made it more difficult to see. But Habibullah had to return to the base from where he had taken off.

Once again, he flew over the clouds and mountain tops and safely landed his plane to be welcomed back by his commander. Brigadier Habibullah has gained much useful experiences in the 18 years of his service which he passes on to young pilots. He was recently decorated for his good military service and continues to fly difficult missions to defend his country's freedom and revolution.

## Green house inaugurated

A green house was inaugurated on Thursday in Badam Bagh area by Agriculture and Land Reclamation Ministry with the assistance of UN organisation to meet the need for improved seeds of state farms cooperatives and peasants and to supply vegetables for Kabul city during winter. The green house has been built by Anis construction unit and installed by a company of Netherlands. At a cost of 500,000 dollars from the assistance of the United Nations and Afs three million from the state development budget in one month's time. The green house has irrigation fertilisers and pesticides spraying and cooling and heating systems.

The production of the green house will be supplied to the market in the coming winter. Further, the foundation stone of another green house was also laid beside the already inaugurated one on the same day by Sayed Nasim Mihanparast deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA.

KNT 8/2 (BIA)

## NEW TV FILM



Hanan Zmarial

A new TV feature film, entitled "Mother's Grief" is under production.

Hanan Zmarial is directing the film. He said in an interview to a KNT correspondent: "I have been acting for 14 years now in radio and TV dramas and stage plays. I entered the world of cinema by playing a small part in 'Hard Days', a feature film. I continued my career, and acted in many films: 'Green Farm', 'Voice of the Village', 'Tears and Smiles', 'The End', 'Hope' etc., are well known amongst the 16 films in which I acted."

Hanan Zmarial is a member of the Artists' Union and his activities in cinema won for him the film award of the State Committee for Culture, Mawlandpor.

## Joust: martial art and popular sport

KABUL, Pakista and Zabul provinces where elections of people's representatives to the local organs of state power and administration are going on are witnessing the very popular sport event called joust.

Joust is an ancient traditional game of Afghanistan as 'bukhar' game is common in northern provinces of the DRA. Joust was popular thousands of years ago when horses were tamed. Joust was widely used as an art in fighting enemies, and as a sport on wedding days and events of national importance such as elections which are going on in the country and on the day of child birth. It is common in all parts of the country where Pashtoons live, particularly in Zabul, Pakista, Pakista and Ghazni provinces.

On a joust day, all jousters make ready horses and bring them to the joust field—special wide-open place. Every joust has a lance. Girls generally compete in decorating lances, saddles, and horses.

Jousters wear special clothes. Before riding a horse, a joustier ties his waist with a silk handkerchief. He tightens his silk turban more than usual to prevent its loosening when the horse starts running. The joust is divided into two parts. On one part jousters and horses are impatiently waiting in queue and on the other part a heap of stakes is kept. The length of each stake is half a meter. A person is on duty there for giving marks and pitching the stakes on the ground for the jousters. A joustier pulls up these stakes when his horse rushing at maximum speed reaches the place. The play starts with the loud beating of a drum and dis-

pping by spectators. With the starting of the drum, a joustier on a horseback begins the rein of his horse by saying special words affectively in a loud voice. The joustier holds a spear in his right hand and the rein of his horse in his left hand and bend ahead by prancing his horse. The game lasts for 3-4 hours.

At the end, two or three jousters win the game. They compete with each other. Finally they take 5-10 stakes pitched at a distance of two or three meters on one line. In the last round they toss coins for determining the best joustier.

There is an epic story connected with joust in fighting during the Anglo-Afghan war. After occupying Kandahar province, the British colonialists wanted to occupy Kabul through Zabul. The Zabul people, particularly the Orzbad people (famous place in Zabul province) were informed about the plan of the Britishers. Sahib Khan Ghani, an outstanding chieftain of the region invited all the people for fighting. People came out together with their horses and lances in the village of Sahib Khan. Under his command they made an attack on the colonialists. They used swords and spears in fighting with British soldiers. After two days of severe fighting, the British invaders were defeated and forced back. The letter of Sahib Khan Ghani sent to people to fight against the British, as well as his words by which he killed many colonialists are kept in the national archives and museum in Kabul.

Girls of the region sing songs about Sahib Khan Ghani's heroism on national days.

## New film.

# "MY JAWID"

"Shafak Film" is a private film organization of the country which has produced several full length features, some of which are tremendously popular.

Last week, some cinematographers gathered at Shafak Film, to discuss the concluding stage of "My Jawid" a new feature film, currently under production at the studios of Shafak Film. Ninety per cent of the film has been shot.

"My Jawid" touches upon the psychological state of a young fugitive who

is overwhelmed by the terrorist deeds and crimes of the counter-revolutionary bandits.

The essence of the film is to feature the true face of the undeclared war against Afghan people, and the major appeal of the film is the desire of the people to put an end to this war. The cast of the film is selected from amongst the artists and film makers of Shafak Film. Timur Haqmyar, Zariash, Abdulah Watandust, Wais Samadi, Shah Mahmud Sharik, Alla, and Abdul-

lah play the chief characters in the film. The script is written by Torsyal Shafak and photography is by Habib Torsyal Shafak has plans to produce two more artistic pictures, entitled: "In the mother's bosom" and "the villainous".

The heartening social and political events of the country are selected as the political major themes of these films.

It is expected that the two films will be released by the end of the current Afghan year.

By: Mawlandpor



Torsyal Shafak directing "My Jawid"



Photo: A view of Nangarhar University named after Sayasid Roshan which was destroyed by the bandits, but rebuilt.

KNT 8/2

KNT 8/12

By A Staff Reporter

Play by Karl Chapik, Czech playwright.  
Translation: Dr. Farhan.  
Direction: Behruz Behrad.  
Cast: Ziauddin Zia, Ahmadullah, Ahmadullah and ...

As the curtain rises, the stage with its pre- and post-world war European setting has a weird appearance. A human skeleton and two Swastikas at both ends of the stage deepen the eerie silence. All of a sudden, two officers in Nazi uniform and Hitler enter. The officers give the fascist salute and interrupt the silence with chanting of the slogan "Long live Hitler". A crowd of people appalled by catastrophic cruelty and nightmare, approaches from both sides of the stage.

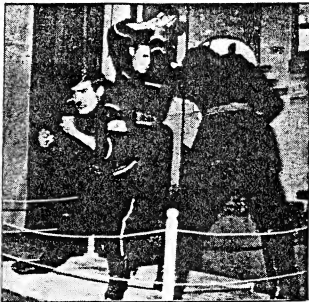
A thunder-burst of hue and cry is raised. "Ah! it's plague!" "It is black leprosy!" and "My Goodness! It's war or death" are the voices that can be heard.

"White illness" opens with a metaphorical interpretation of the outbreak of fascism in Europe early in 3rd decade of the 20th century, along with its subsequent evils.

Signus and Gehlen, are two doctors representing forces of evil and good respectively. Dr. Signus, a villain, is the head of Hitler's public health. He has no patients but kills by catastrophic disease. He is trying to spread the disease. Dr. Gehlen on the other hand is a noble man who has discovered pills to treat the patients. He himself is the symbol of peace-loving and anti-war sentiments of the toiling people. He refuses to treat any patient, unless an overall peace treaty is signed. He insists that

viruses of the illness are capable of causing disease in mentally blinded people. The affected patients have an extremely fetid smell. Nobody can

the human Skeleton is hanging as before danger of war still existing. The ending and the concluding scene, as represented in the play,



Amanullah in the role of Hitler.

tolerate their smell even for a short while.

Approaching crowds, hues and cries, mourning are repeated several times in the play to accentuate the sense of horror of the audience at the crimes and cruelties of the fascists.

Hitler announces: We want war, for it is our power. Capitalists are supporting us. We must eliminate every kind of freedom. I command, kill and hang every one who does not think or act like us. Triumph is ours."

Parallel to Hitler's announcement, a face to face battle between two crowds of people led by the two antagonist doctors occurs on the stage. Dr. Signus kills Dr. Gehlen but forces of evil are finally defeated and peace overcomes war. The Swastikas is then broken but

reduce significance of the play to an old conventional melodrama.

Music is a noticeable factor of the play "At night, Ghosts come and dance on the mountain" a piece of Musorgsky (Russian composer) and a medieval European choral tune, help the setting and atmosphere of the play.

Ziauddin played the role of Dr. Signus and Ahmadullah that of Hitler more effectively. They are students of fine art faculty of Kabul university.

The play is a full length drama in three acts, but the director has condensed it into a one-act. Asked about this, he said "I brought on the stage what were essential in the play."

Ehsan Azari

AUGUST 2, 1984

Abdul Qudus is an outstanding body builder of the country. He has participated in 30 competitions at home and won nine gold, four silver and three bronze medals.

He stood first in the recent body building contest launched at the initiative of the Central Council of Trade Union of Afghanistan on the occasion of the army day of the DRA.

Among the eight teams from state organs and private clubs participating in the contest, Abdul Qudus was recognized as champion in the tall height group. Due to the beauty of his body he was awarded a gold medal by the Central Council of Trade Union of Afghanistan. He also stood second and received a silver medal in the competitions launched this year by the Central Council of TUA on the occasion of the 10th founding anniversary of the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan.

In the competitions held in Kabul last year in honour of the 12th world youth festival he won the first position in the middle height category and received a silver medal.

He also won two times the first position and won two gold medals and two championship cups in the competitions organized in 1982 and 1983 by physical education institute. Now, he is serving as soldier in police academy.

He says: "I have taken interest in sports since my childhood. I started my favourite sport when I was at school. But I commenced my favorite sport (body building) in Mazar-e-Sharif under the training of Mohammad Musa, trainer of Tefah club. Now I am a member of national team and trainer of body building club of police academy."



Abdul Qudus.

During the contests, he was awarded one first grade sports diploma of the Ministry of Interior and two sports diplomas of the police academy. Abdul Qudus is Tajik and was born into a peasant family in Chetgar, area of Mazar-e-Sharif. He is 27 and graduated from physical education institute. Now, he is serving as soldier in police academy.

He says: "I have taken interest in sports since my childhood. I started my favourite sport when I was at school. But I commenced my favorite sport (body building) in Mazar-e-Sharif under the training of Mohammad Musa, trainer of Tefah club. Now I am a member of national team and trainer of body building club of police academy."

Abdul Qudus added: "After my graduation from Bakhter Lycee of Mazar-e-Sharif I was employed by the power energy

department of Balkh province. But due to my interest in sports I joined the physical education institute.

"I was the trainer of Wahdat sport club in Mazar-e-Sharif which had about 25 members and I trained several sportsmen in this club.

Now those who I had trained, are the champions of body building in Balkh province, he noted. Besides discharging my military service in Kabul province, I am also the trainer of Arzu club which has about 40 members. Out of whom ten are ready to participate in national and international matches.

In addition to provide every necessary facilities in developing the talents of sportsmen, the police academy encourages the sportsmen in various sports fields. It is the reason that our sports teams have gained numerous victories and honours in different contests.

Currently I practice weight lifting in Olympic club and body building in Arzu club three days a week.

Beside body building I also participated in weight lifting matches and won a silver medal.

By Dost Mohammad

KNT 9/10

## FOLKLORE PRESERVED

KNT 8/12

The Folklore Foundation of Afghanistan set up under the State Committee for Culture last year, has collected and preserved thousands of specimens of folk literature, traditions customs and beliefs as well as folk medicines.

One thousand folk poems, legends, songs, proverbs and maxims of all nationalities are preserved in the foundation's recordings. These also contain cassettes of folk tunes and songs, all retaining their folk genuineness.

Experts and employees of the foundation have gathered 3000 folk items which have never been set in writing from Badakhshan, Fariab and Balkh provinces and this work would continue in all other provinces.

The foundation has assembled over 50 biographies of Afghan folklorists and collected theoretical books on folklore published in the country. Further, 5000 different studies on folk literature form on publications and hundreds of photographs, have also been gathered.

The collections of foreign folklores from friendly countries has some 2000 items. Shamsuddin, Zarif Sidiqi head of the Folklore Foundation of Afghanistan said in an interview to KNT: "The foundation has established contacts with the folklore foundations of the Soviet Union and GDR, maintains close relations with them and thus seeks to enrich the archives of the Folklore Foundation of Afghanistan."

Attempts are also being made by the Foundation to acquire membership of the International Folklore Foundation, which has its headquarters in Finland.

(By: Z. Razban)

A delegation of Afghan folklorists visited GDR's folklore establishments and it is expected that a delegation of our foundation will pay a visit to the USSR in the coming month.

Exchange of delegations, experts, and folklore publications with friendly countries plays a significant role in the expansion of the Folklore Foundation of Afghanistan.

Attempts are also being made by the Foundation to acquire membership of the International Folklore Foundation, which has its headquarters in Finland.



An employee of the Folklore foundation organizing files of folk items.

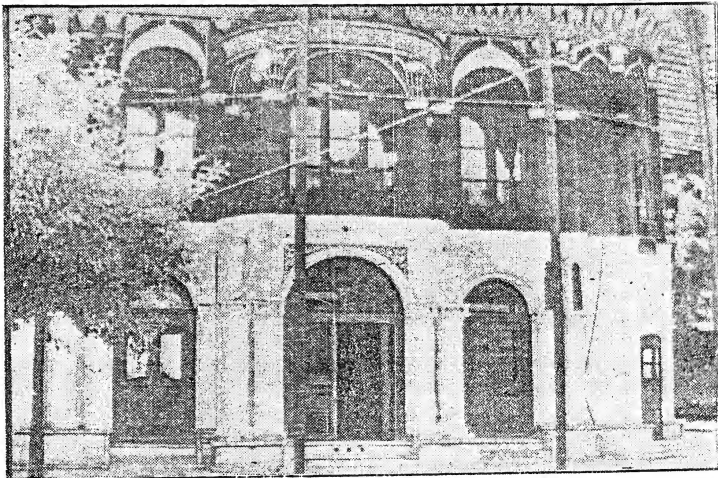
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# PRICELESS TREASURES HOUSED IN NEW MUSEUM

KNT 9/9



Kuti Baghcha, a beautiful building of the former royal palace, was built 120 years ago during the reign of Amir Abdul Rahman Khan in Kabul by master builders. It has unique architectural features. When the Amir came to power, he wanted to erect an impregnable fort. Then he chose 200 jiribs area on the north-east of old Kabul city in the vicinity of Shirpur ground. There the fort was built and named as Argi-Shahi. It had high walls, observation towers and a huge moat around it. Amir built another big building near Kuti Baghcha, meaning House of Salute. Amir used to receive his subjects there during national and religious celebrations.



\*: An outside view of Kuti Baghcha.

(KNT Photo)

Salam Khana gradually received historical importance and was the venue of many Jirgahs.

Besides, these two buildings, he also built the royal office and Harem there. Some alterations were made later in the shape of some of the buildings in Argi-Shahi.

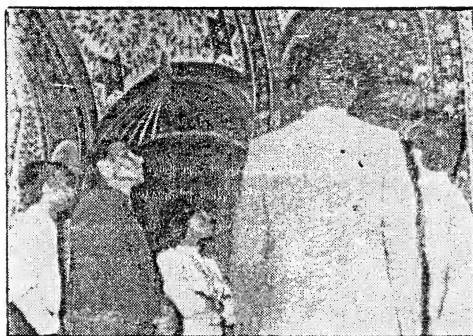
Kuti Baghcha has been now turned to a museum of gold relics. It was opened on the Independence and the Army Day of the DRA, i.e. August 19th, this year. Excavated gold objects and other items (Tella Tappa) formerly preserved in the National Museum are now housed in the new museum.

21618 gold, silver and alloy objects were discovered as a result of Afghan-Soviet expedition, conducted in 1978-79, in Sheberghan, the capital of Jauzjan province.

The gold objects comprise jewellery such as brooches, pendant, pins, buckles and other beautiful art works of the ancient Bactria. They are kept in show cases according to their classification.

By: Z. Razban.

By: Z. Razban.



\*: A number of Kabul citizens visiting Kuti Baghcha building.

A large number of photos depicting the gains of the April Revolution, are also on display.

## COMRADE NAJIB AT WORK



Comrade Najib, General Secretary of the PDPA CC received on Thursday in his office in the CC headquarters, Dastagir Panjsheri, President of Writers' Union

Hamid Jalil, President of Artists' Union and Mahmud Habibi, vice-president of Journalists' Union.

KNT  
9/13

# CHRONOLOGY

8/6 - BIA - PDPA membership cards were presented to members of the Revolutionary Society of Afghan Working People, a left-wing group which merged with the PDPA at the 19th plenum.

- The WDOA will become the Nation-wide Council of Afghanistan's Women (NCAW). Feroza, an alternate member of the CC of the PDPA & commander of a revolution defenders group in Kabul, was elected President of the NCAW, replacing Dr. Anahita Ratebzad.

8/12 - BIA - Returning via Moscow from the Geneva talks, DRA Foreign Minister Shah Moh'd Dost said that in spite of Western media statements, the Geneva talks are not deadlocked. Steps will be taken for their continuation.

- UNICEF reported a 72% decrease in the mortality rate of DRA children under a year old.

- Gen'l Najib visited Gardez in central Paktia & urged the elders to try to convince Afghan fugitives to respond to the DRA's national reconciliation call.

8/13 - BIA - The RC Presidium approved 5 decrees on the armed forces: 1) about the title "Hero of the DRA & the regulations pertaining to it," 2) defines the privileges of the heroes, 3) about the "symbol of the army...aimed at motivating army personnel with high combat spirit, 4) approval of honorary titles, regimental flags & decorations, 5) honorary titles & decorations for the air & border forces.

8/19 - LA Times & Afghan News - In Rotterdam last June, Dutch police seized 485 lbs. of pure heroin packed in two containers of Afghan raisins. The drug was unloaded from the Soviet freighter Kapitan Tomson which had arrived from Riga on the Baltic Sea indicating that the shipment came through Russia.

8/20 - Afghan News (Jamiat) - Mujahideen under the command of Mulla Abdul Wadood, Chief Cdr. of Takhar, captured the Ferkhar garrison taking many prisoners & lots of supplies. (Afghan News of 9/15 reports that British journalist Sandy Gall filmed the attack & is preparing a documentary film.)

8/24 - BIA - An Afghan-Indian Friendship Society was established in New Delhi.

8/28 - NYCT & SCMP - An ammunition dump at the Afghan Army's 8th Division hq in the Qargha Lake area west of Kabul blew up. Explosions continued for over 5 hours. According to the KNT (8/28):

There are no human losses and the houses located around the area were not damaged. The residents staying close to the area were immediately removed to safe places and provided with alternate accommodation and normal living conditions...

Immediately when the explosions started, Comrade Najib went to the area and personally supervised the rescuing of the residents from the area.

City transport vehicles were pressed into service for emergency transportation of the residents of the area close to the incident and arrangement was made for their temporary accommodation and supply of essentials.

The families who were thus transported from their houses to avoid possible danger have since returned to their houses yesterday.

The Politburo of the Central Committee of the PDPA assessed the incident and has assigned a state commission headed by Lt. General Ghulam Farouq Yaqubi to seriously investigate the incident and to report its results to the Politburo.

The Politburo decided that those responsible for the incident should be tried and punished according to military regulations.

The Politburo also assigned the Council of Ministers of the DRA to render urgent assistance to those who may have been affected by the incident.

The BIA adds that the enemies of the revolution and the imperialist mass media as usual misusing the incident, will resort to false and hostile propaganda. Therefore the people are asked not to believe such false propaganda and to foil them.

The Afghan News of 9/15 puts it this way: "Mullah Ezar, a capable cdr. from Jamiat has claimed responsibility for the attack," which he said was launched by 107mm rockets. "It should be noted that 2 other parties have also claimed responsibility for the attack... No matter who is responsible, the Soviets & their puppets were hurt by the explosion & that is what really matters to the Afghan people."

8/28 - HK Standard - A date for the resumption of the Geneva talks on ending the Afghan conflict will be announced soon despite the disagreement on the time frame for troop withdrawal, according to a Pakistani foreign ministry official.

8/29 - SCMP - Up to 40 people may have died in the explosions at the Qargah ammunition dump. (See 9/2.)

8/30 - BIA - The undeclared war has cost the DRA over Afs. 45b [Up from the 36b reported on 7/14 by BIA]. "Imperialism...changed Afghanistan into a bleeding wound." Counterfeit Afghan banknotes are on the increase causing further problems.

- NYT - US officials said the Qargah explosion was the work of Afghan guerrillas. One State Department official called the raid "one of the biggest successes" for the guerrillas but said there was no indication that it would have any lasting effect on the conflict.

The SCMP gives this re-

port from Moscow:

Muslim rebels caused a huge explosion and fire near Kabul this week in which a number of people were killed. Russian television reported on Thursday night in contradiction of official Afghan statements on the incident. The evening newscast carried film of a ball of fire and rockets exploding, closely

matching accounts from Kabul of a blast at an Afghan Army ammunition dump outside the capital on Tuesday night.

The official Russian media often mentions minor attacks by the rebels but this report was a rare admission of the intensity and scale of the fight against the Moscow-backed Afghan Army.

- NYT - The Soviets said that their limited withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan would involve 8,000 troops & begin this fall.

8/31 - NYT - Afghanistan will be the subject of US-Soviet arms control talks in Moscow 9/2-3, US negotiators are Michael Armacost & Arnold Raphael.

9/1 - BIA - Abdul Wali Khan, President of Pakistan's National Awami Party, arrived in Kabul at the invitation of the PDPA CC.

Abdul Wali Khan was born in January 11, 1917 into the family of Khan Abdul Ghafar Khan, the prominent leader of Pakistan's liberation movement and anti-British struggle.



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9/2 - SCMP - New reports from Kabul indicate that the death toll from the Qargah explosion might reach 100. Mujahideen have continued rocket attacks on Kabul.

9/3 - SCMP - The NFF plans a recruiting drive among the rebels to try to win them over to the DRA. The NFF, the official umbrella organization for non-party groups, will offer jobs, amnesty & other help if the guerrillas will lay down their arms.

- BIA - Over Afs. 114.5b will be invested during the current 5-year plan (1986-91), according to Niaz Moh'd Momand, Sec'y of the PDPA CC.

9/4 - NYT - US-Soviet talks on Afghanistan in Moscow (see 8/31) ended a day early. The two sides exchanged views & the talks were conducted in a "business-like manner."

- NYCT - Sayed Houssein, a member of the self-proclaimed Afghan gov't in exile (See FORUM XIV, #5, P.17), has been accused by New York City of owing \$148,000 in back real estate taxes. Houssein was being considered to receive a grant to convert a school into low & middle income housing in Harlem.

- 21 wounded Afghans left Pakistan on 9/1 for advanced medical treatment in the US in hospitals in California, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania & Texas.

- BIA - Abdul Rahim Hatif is chairman of the working committee to draft the new constitution of the DRA (replacing Babrak). The document will "define the rights & duties of all the citizens for ensuring peace & nationwide understanding for the cause of constructing a new society."

- PT - The Political Committee of the Non-Aligned Movement adopted a stand on Afghanistan identical to that called for at the NAM summit in Delhi: a political settlement based on foreign troop withdrawal, respect for the territorial integrity & non-aligned status of Afghanistan & observance of the principle of non-interference & non-intervention, & the right of the refugees to return home in safety & honor.

9/5 - PT - Soviet occupation authorities have turned Ghazni into an important supply center from where reinforcements are dispatched to Paktia, Paktika, Urgoon, Zabul & Wardak provinces.



9/6 - Kayhan Int'l - At least 2 dozen buildings in a large military complex in Kabul were leveled in the Qargah blast on 8/28.

9/7 - BIA - Abdul Rashd Mullah Khel, Pres. of the Jirgah Dept., told Bakhtar that there are 99 consultative jirgahs in 11 provinces helping solve people's problems. The jirgahs are "duty bound to create border militia, resistance groups, strengthen the armed forces (sic) of the DRA & shield the border against the enemies who are being exported from Pakistan & Iran."

9/8 - BIA - Mechanized agricultural activity will increase from 73,000 hectares to 504,000 hectares during the current 5-year plan with envisaged income rising to Afs. 52lm.

9/10 - LA Times - In one of the summers' largest operations, Soviet & DRA forces carried out a 3-day offensive in Paghman. (See 9/11)

- NYT - Afghanistan got US News & World Report correspondent Nicholas Daniloff in trouble. Tass reported that Daniloff asked his contact for the following items:

"Get photographs of military equipment being used in Afghanistan.  
"Provide the home addresses and indicate the places of work of demobilized soldiers who fought in Afghanistan."

"Obtain data on the location and strength of military units that are being prepared for dispatch to Afghanistan."

We now quote from the record of what was found during a body search of Daniloff:

"1. Part of a map of Afghanistan with handwritten notations showing the location of Soviet Army units (classified "secret").

"2. A hand-drawn diagram of part of terrain designating the location of military equipment (classified "secret").

"3. Twenty-six black-and-white photographs showing samples of military equipment, soldiers and officers of the Soviet Army."

9/11 - SCMP - Fighting was reported in Paghman last week. Casualties were heavy on both sides. There was also stiff fighting in Qarahbagh.

- BIA - The DRA received a UNESCO award for its literacy campaign. Over 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ m people have learned to read & write since the revolution.

9/13 - BIA - Shah Moh'd Dost, DRA Foreign Minister, left Kabul for NY to participate in the 41st session of the UN General Assembly.

9/14 - PT - Mujahideen forced DRA troops invading Urgoon in Paktia back to Ghazni on 9/6. They mounted a rocket attack on Jalalabad airport, destroying 1 plane & damaging 3, & attacked the Kandahar airport. (See p. 2)  
- Burlington Free Press - Barhanuddin Rabbani, leader of Jamiat-i-Islami, appealed for help for his beleaguered forces fighting in Herat. He asked other guerrilla groups to launch whatever attacks they could to distract Soviet & DRA troops. (See 9/15)

9/15 - PT - DRA bombing & long-range shelling of villages in Herat killed hundreds of civilians & destroyed much property. A Jamiat-i-Islami spokesman reported that 100,000 women & children were forced to flee to Iran. - China donated 5,000 metric tons of wheat to Pakistan for Afghan refugees.

9/16 - PT - Mujahideen under the command of Samay Khan attacked invading DRA forces in the Logar Valley on 9/4, destroying 13 oil tankers & armored vehicles & seizing some weapons.

9/17 - BIA - A new addition to the Kabul bakery will have a capacity to make 115 tons of macaroni/day. In Puli Khumri, Herat & Mazar-i-Sharif, macaroni plants with capacities of 15, 8 & 25 tons respectively are underway.

- Over 1,000 apartments will be given to Kabul's homeless this year. "Accommodation of its people constitutes one of the most important socio-economic programs of the PDPA & the state of the DRA."

9/18 - BIA - The 2nd Congress of the NFF will be held in November & will focus on "how to improve the organizational work & the content of all aspects of socio-political activities."

9/20 - BIA - Over 5,000 women serve in "Defenders of the Revolution" groups & 582 serve in the army. "Joining of youth to the armed forces...is accelerated...since the call was made 2 months ago by the DRA RC to strengthen the armed forces."



9/20 - Kayhan Int'l:

The head of the Afghan Air Force, Jalal Khan, was arrested recently by the puppet administration in Kabul, thus, bringing the Najib-Karmal conflict to a head-on collision.

According to the Afghan resistance sources in Kabul, Jalal Khan was taken into custody by the security forces and was transferred to an unknown Khad center after his persistent opposition to Dr. Najibullah, the puppet Soviet-installed leader of Afghanistan. The sources said that a case has been lodged against the rebellious air force officer in a military tribunal composed by the members of the Revolutionary Council. Most of the circles of puppet administration have no knowledge of the functions of the tribunal. The conflict which started after the nomination of Dr. Najibullah to the top post assumed alarming proportions with the arrest of the officer.

It is to be noted that even the Kabul Radio has admitted to the dismissal of hundreds of government officials who belonged to the Najib and Karmal factions.



- NYT - Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Soviet soldier who deserted in Afghanistan in 1983, came to the US, then returned to the USSR in 1985, reportedly was convicted of high treason & sentenced to 12 years in a labor camp.

9/21 - NYT Sunday Magazine - Stephen Weisman, in an article about Benazir Bhutto, writes:

Most of all, Mr. Zia has established his power by rallying the country in what has widely been perceived as a genuine national security crisis resulting from the 1979 Soviet invasion of neighboring Afghanistan. Surrounded by hostile neighbors, Pakistan has always felt the need for military preparedness. Today, its cornerstone is the \$3.2 billion military and economic aid package that President Reagan signed in 1981, and which he wants to renew with a \$4.02 billion package next year.

Many Pakistanis have become alarmed by the number

of Soviet-Afghan-sponsored bombings and air incursions that have increased recently in Pakistani territory near the Afghan border. And Pakistan has become enmeshed in the Afghan conflict because of the supposedly covert American aid — now reportedly \$470 million a year — to Afghan "freedom fighters" operating from bases in Pakistan.

Backing for the freedom fighters appears to be generally popular throughout Pakistan, except among the educated classes that form a major part of Benazir Bhutto's power base. They argue that the support of the rebel cause

means that the three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan already straining social services and taking up jobs can't go home and that their presence in the northwest could encourage secessionism there. Miss Bhutto cites just this argument in assailing the Zia regime for its handling of the situation. She has, however,

never called for a unilateral cutoff in aid to the rebels.

American policymakers are wary of Miss Bhutto's position on Afghanistan, remembering perhaps that her father was less than a friend of the United States and once accused the Central Intelligence Agency of involvement in his downfall.

9/21 - PT - An "artillery duel" between DRA soldiers & Pakistani border guards near Chaman resulted in 11 people being injured.

- Reports from Kabul indicate that 700 Babrak supporters have been arrested during the past 2 months & are now in Pul-i-Charkhi jail (see 9/20).

- UN Sec'y Gen'l Perez de Cuellar said that "tangible progress" had been made on the Afghan issue this year but he complained that the negotiations lacked a "sense of urgency." [The Afghan question will be debated in the UN Gen'l Assembly on 11/4].

- BIA - The RC Presidium has "endorsed decrees relating to the 'symbol of the Ministry of Interior' & the 'Title of Prominence of the Ministry of Interior'" in appreciation of the role of the Tsarandoy (people's police) in the defense of the DRA. Tsarandoy Day will be celebrated 10/1.

9/23 - PT - Italian Liberal Party leader Renato Adsemo (sic), who with 2 other Italians accompanied mujahideen to the Kunar Valley a few days ago, said he would ask Italian Prime Minister Craxi to raise the Afghan issue with Soviet Premier Gorbachev when he visits Rome in the near future. [The DRA officially protested the Altissimo visit.]

- Ittehad-i-Islami commander Mulla Kandahari was reported killed by an enemy shell while praying after an attack on a DRA security post in Ningarhar Province.

- BIA - Over 80,000 PDPA members & 16,000 "sympathizers groups" received political training during the 1985-86 academic year..

- In an interview with a West German reporter, Comrade Najib said that it was significant that the commencement of the partial Soviet troop withdrawal would take place during the Int'l Peace Year. He stated that the number of Soviet troops remaining in the DRA would be fewer than the number of US troops in West Germany.

9/24 - NYT, IHT - New fighting was reported around Kabul with mujahideen attacking DRA posts in Paghman & launching rocket attacks on Kabul. As many as 15 DRA soldiers may be killed daily & Kabul hospitals are "unusually crowded." Fierce fighting continues in Herat. (See 9/25)

- PT - A Bonn newspaper reported that 1.4m Afghans have been killed in the nearly 7 years of warfare in Afghanistan. (See 9/30)

- Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze told the UN Gen'l Assembly that the USSR favored "new solutions & a fresh approach" to the Afghan question.

- BIA - A radio station opened in Maimana in Faryab Province. It will broadcast about 4 hours/day.

9/25 - PT - Soviet & DRA troops are continuing an offensive around Kabul which began after the 8/28 bomb blast. Reports say that 300 were killed in that blast & that Kabul hospitals are now overflowing with troops wounded in the recent Paghman offensive.

9/26 - PT - Pravda reported that Soviet doctors removed a live grenade from the chest of a soldier wounded in Afghanistan: (The)"doctors first operated on another spot & only discovered the weapon after the soldier pointed out that he had severe chest pains."

- Mujahideen report that the Soviets are using new T-80 tanks in Afghanistan.

- Mujahideen have broken through the Soviet security belt around Herat city & "were able to carry away their wounded companions from the besieged area."

- NYT - DRA Foreign Minister Shah Moh'd Dost, speaking at the UNGA, said that 2/3 of the US CIA budget for covert operations was being used to finance the war in Afghanistan.

9/28 - BIA - The DRA Politburo approved the establishment of a nat'l reconciliation commission, within the framework of the NFF, to maintain peace, repulse imperialist intervention & end fratricide.

9/29 - NYT & LA Times - Mujahideen shot down 3 helicopters in eastern Afghanistan in the last 2 weeks, indicating that they may be getting more anti-aircraft weapons. Two copters were downed near Jalalabad & one in Kunduz.

- BIA - Counter-revolutionaries blew up a large vehicle near the Alaoodeen school in Kabul yesterday. Two students were killed, a soldier wounded, & "material damage" was reported. (See 10/5)

9/30 - NYT - Pakistan's Foreign Minister told the UNGA that 1m Afghans had died since the Soviet invasion. "Inside Afghanistan, a sinister design is being pursued through genocide & large-scale uprooting of population," he said. He repeated his country's demand that a settlement of the issue depended on a timetable for an early & complete withdrawal of Soviet troops.

- PT - Mujahideen have begun to deploy rapid-fire Swiss anti-aircraft guns, according to a Time report. Time estimated that the mujahideen may have as many as 40 Overlikon (sic) 20mm guns plus some BM-13 rocket launchers.

- BIA - Moh'd Anwar Katawazi, Chairman of the DRA Nat'l Museum, said that Buddha images (2nd-6th centuries), works from Bamiyan (3-7th centuries), Islamic works from Ghazni (11-12th centuries) & other works are on exhibition at the museum. (See p. 36)

- Journalists of the DRA & GDR signed a protocol whereby the East Germans will train Afghans & provide photographic & other equipment.

10/1 - BIA - Tsarandoy Day was celebrated with ceremonies, meetings & a buzkashi game; the Writers' Union sponsored a conference on "Peace Reflections in Afghan Literature; a short history of the PDPA is in preparation; many Afghans accepted the DRA subsidy of Afs. 30,000 & an Afs. 2,800 discount on their air fare for the pilgrimage to Karbala, near Baghdad.

- LA Times - **Two Soviet children and a guard were killed in an attack, apparently by Afghan rebels, on the Soviet Embassy in Kabul, Western diplomats said in Islamabad, Pakistan. Vsevolod S. Murakhovski, a first deputy chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers and head of a visiting trade delegation, narrowly escaped serious injury in the attack, one diplomat said.**

10/1 - The Nation (Bangkok) - Radio Kabul said that a car packed with explosives blew up near the Alwoddin Boys School in Kabul (see 9/29) killing 2 students, 1 shopkeeper & injuring a police officer. The explosion also caused extensive damage to the Soviet trade office. (See 10/5)



10/2 - BIA - The draft of the new Afghan constitution was approved by the Politburo.

- The DRA protested that 700 ground-to-ground rockets were fired on Spinboldak by Pakistani military forces & their US accomplices.

10/3 - NYT - Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, in Canada, said that although arms control will head the agenda at the Iceland meeting, the Kremlin is ready to discuss Afghanistan. "I can assure you that the Soviet Union, more than anyone else, has an interest in the resolution of the problem."

10/4 - HK Standard

WASHINGTON: Afghanistan yesterday appealed to the World Bank to lift its embargo on loans to the country, imposed after the Soviet Union sent troops into Afghanistan in 1979.

The governor of the Afghan Central Bank Mohamed Kabir made the plea to the annual meeting of the IMF and World Bank. Since the Soviet intervention Western governments and organisations have suspended lending to Afghanistan.

- BIA - Bakhtar signed a protocol with the Nicaraguan News Agency to trade information & correspondents.

- Elections have been completed; 14,000 people's deputies have been elected; over 85% of the eligible population voted; 64.7% of those elected are non-party people.

- PT - The Afghan charge d'affaires in Iran & his aide were beaten up, robbed & locked in a toilet on a train taking them to the USSR last August. Ziauddin Wahdat & Assadullah Karimzadah were set upon by 5 masked attackers - who spoke fluent Farsi - while travelling between Zanjan & Mianah in Iran. They were robbed of their diplomatic mail, jewelry & 5m rials cash.

10/5 - PT - The car bomb blast in Kabul on 9/28 killed 42 persons in the Soviet trade mission building. Hizb-i-Islami mujahideen said they planted the bomb with the assistance of DRA soldiers.

- The World Food Program will give Pakistan 75,000 tons of wheat worth \$13.1m for Afghan refugees in 1987. Donations from other sources will amount to about \$269.7m.

10/6 - PT - In Mexico, Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze said that the USSR wanted its "boys" back from Afghanistan.

- NYCT - Soviet Vice Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev, in Peking for the 9th round of Sino-Soviet normalization talks, hinted that he might be ready to discuss China's longtime demand for the removal of "3 major obstacles" to better relations between the two countries. One of the obstacles is Afghanistan.

10/7 - PT - UN mediator Diego Cordovez will visit Kabul & Islamabad next month to try to negotiate a time frame for a Soviet troop withdrawal.

- BIA - Comrade Najib spoke at the inaugural ceremony of the PDPA's economic management school. He also addressed the 2nd congress of DRA teachers meeting in Kabul.

10/8 - NYCT - Mujahideen captured a Soviet convoy & were reported to have offered to swap 40 Soviet prisoners for 400 rebels but the DRA turned down the deal, wanting a 1 for 1 swap.

10/9 - PT - Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that, apart from the Geneva talks, Pakistan is in touch with the USSR to seek an early solution to the Afghan issue.

- An Afghan passenger plane, en route from Kabul to Amritsar, entered Pakistan air space without permission & was brought down in Lahore. The plane was released after 2 hours (see 10/11).

- NYT & LA Times - The USSR plans to begin the partial pullout of 6 regiments from Afghanistan on 10/15. Included will be a tank regiment (1,100 men), 2 motorized rifle regiments (2,100 men each), & 3 anti-aircraft regiments (550 men each). Western sources estimate the number to be 6,950 out of a total of 120,000. In Peking, US Defense Sec'y Weinberger told Chinese officials that the pull-out was a "ruse."

- BIA - A RC decree promotes "instructors of the military affiliations" to the same ranks as instructors in military educational institutions up to the rank of full colonel.

10/11 - BIA - Members of the Vanguard Organization of Young Workers of Afghanistan (VOYWA) received PDPA membership cards. VOYWA joined the PDPA last September.

- PT - Pakistani border guards arrested 3 Afghan saboteurs near Noshki in the Chagai district & seized arms & ammunition from them. Pakistan says the saboteurs are trained in specially set up camps along the Pak-Af border.

- Kabul authorities apologized to the Pakistani CAA for the Ariana airplane's landing at Lahore. The plane used a call-sign which will not be effective until 10/23. (See 10/9)

10/13 - PT - DRA troops attacked "foreign doctors working in Afghanistan south of Kandahar on 9/14 during which medical equipment worth over \$75,000 was destroyed," according to VOA. The doctors, all German, managed to get back to Pakistan. - Abdur Rab Rasool Sayyaf has taken control of over 1,000 mujahideen drawn from various centers who are fighting on the Zazi front in Paktia.

10/13 - Evening Outlook - Barhanuddin Rabani said that the scheduled withdrawal of some Soviet troops from Afghanistan is a trick to manipulate world opinion & that the Soviets have no intention of leaving Afghanistan. (See 10/15, 10/16 & p. 22)



Ashbury Park Press August 5

- Preparatory work for the Kabul city census, to be started 12/20, has been completed. The census is being taken to facilitate the designing of party & state programs to meet the growing needs of the city. "Data will be collected on sex, marital status, birthplace, nationality, language, literacy, level of education, occupation, living facilities..."

10/14 - NYCT - Kurt Lobeck writes

The political leadership of the mujaheddin is slowly but surely becoming a more cohesive operation. The Ittihad-e Islami Mujaheddin Afghanistan, an alliance of seven major resistance parties and leaders which was announced last year, has been seen by most observers as imposed by the U.S. State Department and the Pakistani government. But the leadership itself fully understands the need for a truly 'united' resistance, despite the political and religious differences among them.

A meeting of tribal leaders earlier this year demanded that the mujaheddin alliance begin more effective coordination, particularly in their mili-

tary activities. While in Washington in June, four representatives of the leadership let it be known that the next several months will see the creation of an administrative operation by the mujaheddin for most areas of Afghanistan. A majority of the world community, led by the Islamic Conference Organization, can be expected to recognize this 'government in exile.' A real 'foreign office' will most likely be formed and consulates will be established around the world. A serious formal application for recognition by the United Nations will naturally follow. With 121 U.N. members having voted to demand a withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, such recognition is likely.



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#### ABBREVIATIONS USED

AICMB	- Afghan Information Center <u>Monthly Bulletin</u>
AWSJ	- <u>Asian Wall Street Journal</u>
BIA	- Bakhtar Information Agency
CC	- Central Committee
CSM	- <u>Christian Science Monitor</u>
DRA	- Democratic Republic of Afghanistan
DYOA	- Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan
FEER	- <u>Far Eastern Economic Review</u>
FRG	- Federal Republic of Germany
IHT	- <u>International Herald Tribune</u>
KNT	- <u>Kabul New Times</u>
NFF	- National Fatherland Front
NWFP	- Northwest Frontier Province
NYT	- <u>New York Times</u>
NYCT	- <u>New York City Tribune</u>
PDPA	- People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan
PSFO	- Peace, Solidarity & Friendship Organization
PT	- <u>Pakistan Times</u>
RC	- Revolutionary Council
RTV	- Refugee Tent Village
SCMP	- <u>South China Morning Post</u>
UNGA	- United Nations General Assembly
UNHCR	- United Nations High Commission for Refugees
WDOA	- Women's Democratic Organization of Afghanistan
WSJ	- <u>Wall Street Journal</u>

Line drawing from the 1982 Afghanistan Calendar of the  
Chicago Afghanistan Relief Committee.

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